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HH the Amir addressing the opening session of Arab justice ministers meeting.

'Accept peace and dialogue'

Halt war, Amir again urges Iran

HH the Amir of Kuwait yesterday issued a new appeal to Iran to halt its war with Iraq and resolve the 7-1/2-year-old Gulf conflict through negotiations.

"Judging by Islamic and Arab history, we find that inter-Islamic wars did not provide any radical solution to problems," the Amir said in his address at the inauguration of the sixth conference of Arab justice ministers.

The Amir, current chairman of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), apparently was alluding to Iran's demands that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein be removed before a peaceful settlement to the war can be reached. Both Iran and Iraq are members of the OIC, an umbrella organisation for all Muslim countries.

The protracted war between the two northern Gulf belligerents is threatening the rest of the region, particularly Kuwait which lies closest to the war front.

The Amir's peace appeal came only three days after tension briefly shot up between his country and the Persian state when three Iranian gunboats opened fire on a military post on Bubiyan Island, wounding two Kuwaiti soldiers.

In his address to the justice ministers, the Amir criticised internal aggression.

The Amir also called for resolving the Afghan issue through dialogue without foreign intervention.

"Putting the Afghan house in order is the responsibility of its people, who should conduct a fraternal dialogue to build up their own country and future without foreign intervention," he said.

Arab justice ministers, who have met annually since 1983, will discuss ways to harmonise Arab laws relating to personal statistics and registration of real estate.

They will also discuss a proposed unified Arab civil code and unification of legal practices, officials said.

Message

The inaugural session was attended by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, and the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister.

The Amir said judiciary in the Arab world is based on human rights, and in that it unifies the message of Islam and the international charters.

He pointed out that among the Arab countries there are more similarities than dissimilarities and called for pinpointing the similarities.

US Mideast peace efforts

Saudis may play mediating role

VIENNA, April 2. (Agencies): Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky has said that the Saudi leadership is thinking of playing a mediating role in a US Middle East peace plan.

Vranitzky made the assessment in an interview yesterday with Austrian television conducted on his return flight from Riyadh, where he ended a four-day official visit Thursday.

Vranitzky said the Saudi leadership had been sceptical toward the plan because of what they considered inadequate Palestinian representation.

Negative

However, he said that US Secretary of State George Shultz's meeting with two Palestinian Americans had led to "a certain relaxation."

"The Saudis have now come around in such a way that they no longer take a negative stand towards the American plan ... and are even considering actively taking part with a mediating role," Vranitzky said.

Austria has expressed its willingness to host an international Middle East conference under United Nations auspices.

Vranitzky held talks with King Fahd and other officials during his four-day visit.

Shultz said today he refused to give up his Middle East peace efforts despite widespread resistance, saying he felt "in my bones" that a settlement was possible.

Addressing a news conference in Rome, on the eve of his second trip to the Middle East in a month, Shultz said he was encouraged by his discussions with Arab and Israeli leaders.

(Continued on Page 2)

Premier receives Iranian message

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday received a message from Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hussein Mussavi.

The message was delivered by the Iranian charge d'affaires to Kuwait to the director of Sheikh Saad's office, Abdel Latif Al Bahar.

The contents were not disclosed.

Sheikh Saad yesterday visited the two soldiers, who were injured in the Iranian gunboat attack on military positions in Bubiyan Island. The two are being treated at the Addan hospital.

Sheikh Saad was accompanied by the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed, and other ministers.

Sheikh Saad hailed the soldiers' patriotism and their devotion to duty. He affirmed that they have lived up to their country's expectations.

The two soldiers sustained serious injuries to their legs and arms, a hospital source said. They are at the intensive care unit.



Sheikh Saad inquiring about the condition of a wounded soldier. Sheikh Nawaf (left) was also present.

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Dilip Kumar given rousing reception in Karachi

ISLAMABAD, April 2. (Kun): Leading Indian film actor Dilip Kumar was given a rousing reception when he flew into Karachi from Bombay on his first visit to Pakistan since independence.

Hundreds of the fans and admirers of the evergreen star of Indian filmdom thronged the Karachi airport to greet him and his actress wife Saira Banu.

A still bigger crowd lustily cheered the 66-year-old film star when he visited the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah to pay homage to the founder of Pakistan.

Dilip, whose real name is Yusuf Khan, will be in Pakistan for two weeks as the guest of Karachi-based Fatimid Welfare Foundation which has established charity hospitals in different parts of Pakistan. One such hospital in Peshawar will be inaugurated by Dilip this week.

Peshawar, the capital of the Northwest Frontier Province, is the birth place of Dilip which he left before independence.

A large number of receptions will be held to honour Dilip in Karachi, Peshawar, Lahore, Islamabad and Rawalpindi. President Zia-ul-Haq will also receive him.

Two other leading Indian film stars, Rajendra Kumar and Sharmila Tagore, are also visiting Pakistan.

Manhunt launched

Filipino coup leader Honasan escapes

MANILA, April 2. (Agencies): Philippine coup leader Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan escaped from a prison ship along with 14 of his guards as soldiers fired on their rafts today, and a grim-faced President Corason Aquino vowed to spare no effort in finding the colonel who nearly overthrew her.

Honasan, who evaded a massive manhunt for over three months after a bloody coup attempt last year before he was finally captured in December, escaped about 2.30 am from a Navy ship moored in Manila Bay.

He had apparently bribed his guards, 14 of whom fled with him into the darkness on two rubber rafts as other soldiers fired at them from the ship, a military spokesman said.

A military spokesman said guards on the ship had been changed every week to prevent infiltration by troops loyal to Honasan, but added: "We did not guard against internal recruitment."

Congress wins

NEW DELHI, April 2. (AP): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party today was awarded four seats in the upper house of Parliament in delayed counting of disputed election returns, the United News of India reported.

Ballot counting in northern Gujarat state had been held up after opposition parties claimed there were irregularities in voting last Monday. But the Federal Election Commission ruled that the ballots should be counted.

Iraq overruns Kurdish bases

NICOSIA, April 2. (Agencies): Iraq said today its forces killed thousands of Iranian troops and overran bases of Kurdish rebels in the mountainous northeast of the country.

Iranian warplanes bombed an Iraqi garrison in the region, Tehran Radio reported, but Iran's news media had no immediate comment on the Iraqi victory claim.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency reported that Iraqi forces were levelling the Kurdish town of Seyyed Sadiq in Sulaymaniyah province and its inhabitants were seeking refuge in nearby towns.

Kurdish separatist leader Jalal Talabani confirmed there was heavy fighting.

Haft

A tenuous halt in the "war of the cities" held as Iraq continued to silence its long-range missile launchers for the duration of a trip to Baghdad by Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

Ozal and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein today agreed on the need for an end to the Gulf war based upon the rights of both belligerents, Baghdad Radio reported.

Baghdad Radio quoted a high command communique as saying Iraqi troops "completely purged" the area around Qara Dagh in the Sulaymaniyah region.

Qara Dagh is only 20 miles (32 kms) west of Lake Darbandikhan, where Iranian Revolutionary Guards have thrust into Iraq in a 16-day-old offensive.

The communique quoted by Baghdad Radio said "all traitors have finally been destroyed," in a

Six Palestinians killed in the bloodiest day of uprising

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, April 2. (Reuters): Israeli troops shot dead six Palestinians today in clashes in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, security sources said. It was the highest one-day death toll in four months of unrest.

The toll marked one of the bloodiest days of a four-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

Three people were killed in different places in the West Bank and three others in a single incident in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli security sources said Palestinians were killed in Bethlehem, Beit Liqya and Deir Sudan in the West Bank, and in one incident in Gaza City.

An Israeli Army spokesman said patrols were attacked by residents of Beit Liqya and Deir Sudan, both in the Ramallah area, as they entered the villages.

Fire

He said the soldiers fired tear gas and rubber bullets, then opened fire when their lives were endangered.

Army radio said a 41-year-old Palestinian was killed in Beit Liqya and an 18-year-old in Deir Sudan. Their names were not immediately known.

Palestinian sources identified a Palestinian youth shot and killed by soldiers in Bethlehem as Muhammad Ashaar. They did not know his age.

An Army spokesman said the youth was about to attack a patrol with a petrol bomb near the Church of the Nativity, traditionally recognised as birthplace of Jesus Christ.

The Army said no one was injured in Bethlehem apart from Ashaar, but a spokesman at Al Hussein hospital said four people were treated for wounds.

An Army spokesman said three Palestinians — identified by Palestinian sources as Jamil Rashed Al Kurdi, 55, Ahmed Hamis Al Kurdi, 40, and his son Alaa Ahmed Al Kurdi, 21 — were killed in Gaza City when troops opened fire on youths who attacked them with sticks and stones.

He said one Israeli soldier was stabbed in the incident and another slightly wounded.

The Palestinian sources said troops raided a butcher's shop belonging to Jamil Rashed Al Kurdi. Jamil threw an axe at the soldiers to defend himself and the troops opened fire.

The sources said 13 Palestinians were wounded in the incident and 10 of them were evacuated to Israeli hospitals. The Army said only two Palestinians were injured and they were not taken to Israeli hospitals.

The latest deaths brought the toll in 16 weeks of an anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied territories to 125 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier.

Curfew

UN relief workers said demonstrations of Gaza's refugee camps today, two days after the Army lifted a blanket three-day curfew on all of the Strip's 650,000 residents.

Rumours circulated in Arab East Jerusalem today that Israeli police had pushed the city's senior Muslim leader, Sheikh Saad El-Din Al Alami, to the ground after Friday prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque. Police denied there was such an incident.

The Secretary-General of the Arab League, Chadi Klibi, told reporters in Tunis that the attack on Sheikh Al Alami was extremely rare because the multi is the Imam of Al Aqsa mosque and represents an important religious symbol of the faithful.

Klibi added that the bodily assault also testified to Israeli soldiers' disrespect of the sanctity of Islamic shrines, and insistence on continuing oppressive measures against the Palestinian people to force a halt to their four-month old heroic uprising.

Arafat

TUNIS, (AP): PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has been invited to visit the Soviet Union, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported yesterday.

China sends special envoy to King Fahd

BEIJING, April 2. (Agencies): China has sent a special envoy to meet King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and indicated they would discuss the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

The official New China News Agency said today that Deputy Foreign Minister Qi Huaiyuan, acting as special envoy for President Li Xiannian, flew from Istanbul to Saudi Arabia yesterday.

"China and Saudi Arabia have not established diplomatic relations yet, but bilateral relations have been strengthened in recent years," the agency commented.

Powerful

Qis the highest-ranking Chinese official to visit Saudi Arabia, it said.

It disclosed that Saudi Arabia's agriculture minister visited China "not long ago" and delivered two messages from King Fahd to President Li on the Gulf war and the Middle East.

China's envoy would give Li's reply to King Fahd, the agency added.

Last week China revealed it had sold powerful medium-range missiles to Saudi Arabia, its first sale of such ground-to-ground rockets.

The sale raised protests from the United States which saw it as further surface-to-surface missile proliferation.

Western diplomats said the issue would complicate Sino-US relations, already troubled by China's alleged sales of Silk-worm missiles to Iran.

China has also sold large quantities of weapons to Iraq during the eight-year-old Gulf war, Western diplomats say.

Meanwhile, the Riyadh-based Saudi Gazette quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying:

(Continued on Page 2)

Secrets of a long life

MOSCOW, April 2. (Reuters): A happy marriage, respect from the family and a country life are the secrets of living to old age, the Soviet news agency Tass said.

It said Soviet researchers had found that Armenian men lived on average for 70.5 years, six years longer than people in other parts of the country.

They put this down to Armenia's low divorce rate, its mountains, clean air and stream water, and the respect reserved for old people in the Transcaucasian republic.

Most men who reached old age did not smoke, drank limited amounts of alcohol and lived on a largely fat-free diet, Tass said.

DAY BY DAY

BOTH channels of Kuwait TV repeat the day's list of programmes several times in a detailed manner.

These programmes could be announced on one channel only, instead of wasting so much time.

Moreover, announcements of the next day's programmes are repeated so often on both channels that a viewer may believe they are commercials or a popular soap.

This has become boring, and the TV station could merely show the titles in print on the screen for a few minutes.

Zahed Matar

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light to moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 12.00 am, 12.30 pm

Low water: 7.00 am, 7.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.35 am

Sunset: 6.08 pm

Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 27°C 81°F

Ahmad: 24°C 75°F

Falaka: 25°C 77°F

Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 28°C 82°F

Ahmad: 25°C 77°F

Falaka: 26°C 79°F

Minimum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 11°C 52°F

Ahmad: 15°C 59°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 47 per cent

Ahmad: 32 per cent

Falaka: 55 per cent

Maximum humidity expected: Kuwait: 50 per cent

Ahmad: 55 per cent

Falaka: 60 per cent

INTERNATIONAL

Rajiv considering emergency in Punjab

Sikhs massacre 14 more

NEW DELHI, April 2. (Agencies): Suspected Sikh extremists killed at least 14 people last night, continuing a wave of terror that has led Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to consider imposing emergency rule in the northern Punjab state.

The 14 included four Sikhs shot dead on the outskirts of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar last night and four others whose bodies were recovered this morning.

Rajiv said his government would watch the situation before deciding whether to impose emergency rule on Punjab, a measure which would curtail civil liberties and enhance the powers of security forces.

Talks
A similar rule was imposed on the whole of India between 1975 and 1977 by his mother, Indira Gandhi. It was one of the main issues which led to her defeat in 1977 elections.

But politicians said Rajiv could be forced to impose an emergency in Punjab by the sudden upsurge in killings. At least 260 were killed in extremist violence in March in one of the state's bloodiest months.

Rajiv summoned Gov. S.S. Ray, the state's senior central government administrator, to New Delhi for urgent talks on the deteriorating situation in Punjab where at least 703 people have died in extremist-related violence since Jan 1.

Rajiv, speaking to reporters after a ceremony at the presidential palace in New Delhi, was evasive when asked if he will invoke new constitutional amendments allowing him to impose a state of emergency in Punjab, suspending civil rights and giving security forces virtually unlimited arrest and detention powers.

"We are watching the situation and will do the needful as and when necessary," he said, adding the state's 70,000 security forces will be provided better arms to counter those of the extremists who are using Chinese-made assault rifles and Soviet anti-tank rockets.

Most of Punjab's security forces are equipped with rifles left behind by the British when they granted independence to the subcontinent in 1947.

Home Minister Buta Singh indicated the government would

not deploy the Army to Punjab, saying paramilitary and local police are "sufficient to deal with the situation."

Police said in one incident last night six Sikh separatists on motorcycles stormed into Tara village 135 miles northwest of Chandigarh and killed two aged Hindu brothers.

The attackers proceeded to nearby Kaler village and shot two more Hindus before escaping, police said.

The Khalistan Commando Force, the Sikh extremist group blamed for most of the killings in the region, left a note claiming responsibility for the murders and said the slayings would continue until police stop the "fake encounters."

Sikh militants have long claimed security forces kill suspected extremists taken into custody and then announce that the deaths occurred during gunbattles. Officials deny the charges.

In another attack yesterday, an unspecified number of Sikh extremists killed two people in Jamalsinghwa village, 130 miles west of Chandigarh, police said without giving further details.

Sikh militants claim member of their faith are discriminated against by the Indian government.

Since the start of the year, more than 630 people have died in the violence, many of them moderate Sikhs or Hindus.

Strike
Right-wing Hindu groups called for a general strike in Amritsar district today to protest the killings. Residents of Amritsar reported that about half the shops were shuttered today, but government offices and schools remained open and transport was normal.

Meanwhile, police and paramilitary troops began boosting security on the India-Pakistan border in Punjab, where police say smugglers have been moving large quantities of weapons to the extremists, UNI reported.

Leaders of Congress Party (I) in Punjab have called on Rajiv to impose a state of emergency there to try to curb the violence.

The federal government last month was empowered by parliament to impose such measures to combat "internal disturbances."



Seoul university students throw rocks and firebombs at tear gas-firing riot police during an anti-government demonstration. (Reuter wirephoto)

US seeking renewal of landing rights in Morocco

RABAT, April 2. (UPI): US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci wrangled with King Hassan II of Morocco until the early hours today over the renewal of landing rights in the North African nation for the US Rapid Deployment Force, diplomatic sources said.

Carlucci had an audience with the Arab monarch for three hours at the royal palace in Marrakesh at the foot of the rugged Atlas Mountains. Aides said the Defence Secretary was locked in the negotiations until the early hours. Carlucci arrived yesterday at the start of a nine-day swing through friendly North African and Asian nations.

No statement was released after the talks with the King. But diplomatic sources said they focused on renewing a May 1982 accord giving the US Rapid Deployment Force landing rights at Moroccan bases in case of a threat against common interests. President Carter set up the Rapid Deployment Force after the Tehran hostage crisis to make lightning raids in defence of US interests in the Middle East and other trouble spots.

US troops
WASHINGTON, April 2. (AP): The Pentagon has decided to send about 1,300 additional military personnel to Panama, saying the move is to protect Americans and should not be regarded as "some kind of military action."

However, news reports said the United States is considering plans to overthrow Panamanian defence forces chief Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, the country's de facto leader.

Workers, students battle Seoul police

SEOUL, April 2. (Reuter): About 1,000 workers and students battled riot police in Seoul today after a rally calling for better labour conditions, witnesses said.

The protesters hurled petrol bombs and stones at hundreds of riot policemen who fired volleys of tear gas to prevent the demonstrators marching from the Yonsei University campus onto the streets.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or arrests.

During the hour-long rally, protesters shouted slogans demanding the government release jailed workers and improve work conditions and pay.

Meanwhile, in the southern island of Jeju, about 10,000 striking shipyard workers demonstrated today for the second successive day to back their demands for a 55 per cent pay increase.

On Friday, a shipyard worker set himself ablaze, urging the strikers to continue their struggle. He is being treated in hospital for severe burns.

Union leaders at the Daewoo

Shipbuilding and Heavy Machinery Company said management's 12.6 per cent pay rise offer was unacceptable and the strike would continue until their demands were met.

Probe
Meanwhile, South Korean prosecutors are investigating reports that the arrested brother of former President Chun Doo Hwan bought real estate in the United States and Australia with embezzled state funds.

A prosecution spokesman said today that Chun Kyon-Hwan, 45, arrested on Thursday and charged with embezzling millions of dollars, had repeatedly denied sending money abroad.

But the spokesman said the prosecutors' office would contact South Korean Embassy officials in the United States and Australia to check reports the younger Chun bought property there.

A South Korean newspaper reported on Friday that the alleged purchases included 500 acres of land in New Jersey and a large farm in the southern United States.

Dukakis, Jackson in neck-and-neck fight

WASHINGTON, April 2. (AP): Michael Dukakis has taken up some of the themes of rival Jesse Jackson and ex-vice-presidential candidate Richard Gephardt as the Democratic presidential candidates try to drum up delegates in Wisconsin and Colorado.

With Dukakis and Jackson neck-and-neck in the delegate count thus far — Dukakis with 653.55 to Jackson's 643.55 — another 81 delegates are at stake in Tuesday's primary in Wisconsin. To be nominated requires 2,082 delegates.

Both candidates planned weekend forays into Colorado, which holds caucuses on Monday that begin the selection process for 45 of the state's 51 Democratic delegates.

Dukakis on Friday stepped up his quest for working-class votes in Wisconsin by appealing to the interests of labourers, farmers and lower-income people.

"The human cost of seven years of Republican indifference is staggering," Dukakis said in a television advertisement that started airing Friday. "Who in this administration could look right into the eyes of the laid-off

factory worker or the homeless family and say they've kept the promise of America? I say they've broken that promise."

The new emphasis was evident in his speeches as well. "Wall Street pirates and corporate hit teams aren't the model for a new America," the Massachusetts Governor told a crowd in Racine, Wisconsin, a heavily industrialised city.

Gephardt, who withdrew from the race last week, told a television interviewer that he didn't mind seeing others candidates appropriate the ideas he had emphasised.

Jackson on Friday called for higher prices for farm products and said consumers could easily pick up the tab.

"The fact is, farmers deserve fair prices and workers deserve fair wages and the rich must pay their taxes," Jackson told a gathering at a farm. "The reality is if urban people are working, they can pay a few more pennies for a glass of milk or for a cone of ice cream or for a loaf of bread."

In a later speech, Jackson invited disgruntled Republicans to vote for him.

Iran asks France to expel rebel cleric

BEIRUT, April 2. (AP): Iran has asked France to deport an anti-Iranian Shiite cleric as a precondition for its help in releasing French hostages held in Lebanon, the weekly Ash-Shiraa magazine reported today.

It said negotiations between Paris and Tehran for the release of French diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine and journalist Jean-Paul Kauffmann "have made big progress."

The magazine added: "It is very likely that the French authorities would deport Ayatollah Mahdi Rouhani in return for the release of the three hostages."

Iran's "main aim at present is the deportation of Rouhani," the mufti, or ranking cleric, of the Shiites in Europe, the weekly reported.

Ash-Shiraa gained international fame in November 1986 when it made the first disclosure that the United States was secretly selling arms to Iran in return for the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian Shiite extremists.

Rouhani, who has lived in France for several years, is known for his opposition to

Iran's aging leader, Ayatollah Khomeini.

He caused a stir earlier this year when he announced that Imam Musa Sadr, missing spiritual head of Lebanon's Shiite sect, would appear in Egypt soon.

Musa Sadr mysteriously vanished during a visit to Libya in 1978. Lebanese Shiites accused Libya of holding him. The Libyans denied that.

The Iranian-backed Hezbollah, has attacked Rouhani and accused him of "fabricating" reports about Musa Sadr's return.

Ash-Shiraa's report fueled speculation that Iran and France were negotiating for the hostages' release.

Despite unequivocal French denials, speculation heightened March 24 when a French court, citing lack of evidence, released a Lebanese Shiite held on suspicion of involvement in terrorist bombings in Paris in 1986.

Beirut newspapers last week linked the release of Mohammed Moushajer with "secret negotiations" reported to be under way for the release of the Frenchmen.

Filipino coup leader Honasan escapes

(Continued from Page 1)

military was about to start court-martial proceedings against Honasan on charges of mutiny, sedition, murder and arson.

Armed Forces chief General Renato De Villa ordered troops on the highest state of combat readiness amid fears Honasan would launch another revolt, and officials said Aquino told Manila mayors to report any unusual movements of soldiers in their areas.

Aquino warned soldiers against doing anything to aid the charismatic Army colonel whose rebellion was crushed after the bloodiest street battles in Manila since World War Two.

"I have instructed the chief of staff to issue a warning in unmistakable terms to all military personnel that any assistance given to the renegades will be dealt with promptly and severely with the full force of the law," she said.

Florendo said checkpoints had been set up around Manila in case Honasan tried to enter or leave the capital.

In her television broadcast, Aquino declared: "Our government remains stable."

Help

She appealed to people to help find Honasan and warned: "It is a crime... to harbour, conceal or assist fugitives from justice."

She added that the captain and crew of the prison ship had been arrested and could be court-martialed.

Defence Minister Fidel Ramos said in a televised statement that everything was being done to minimise any mischief Honasan could cause.

Saudis may play mediating...

(Continued from Page 1)

"On the basis of those discussions I cannot help but feel these people all want to see a more stable and peaceful situation. I can feel it in my bones that there's an answer out there if you can only find it," Shultz said.

Shultz, earlier met Pope John Paul, who blessed his peace efforts but underlined that Palestinian rights as well as Israeli existence must be acknowledged. "God bless your efforts," the Pope told the US Secretary of State, who replied: "I go from here to the Middle East with your blessing to sustain the effort."

Resolutions

In Washington, a senior US State Department official said yesterday that the United States would accept any Palestinian as a negotiating partner who accepted the key United Nations resolutions and "renounced violence and terrorism."

But the official, briefing reporters on the basis of no further identification, said that formulation put forward by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat was not acceptable "because it has a huge loophole."

In several public statements, Arafat has offered to accept UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, under which the Arab states would recognise Israel's right to exist in security and peace, in exchange for Israel's withdrawal from territories it occupies militarily.

However, Arafat has added a clause to that acceptance, saying that he recognises resolutions 242 and 338 "and all relevant UN resolutions." US officials say that the added phrase is a code word for dozens of other resolutions, some of which contradict the two basic actions by the UN Security Council, and some of which condemn Israel for racism.

China sends special envoy to King Fahd

(Continued from Page 1)

Ministry spokesman in Islamabad as saying "any threat against the security of Saudi Arabia will be regarded as a threat against the security of the entire Muslim nation."

The Pakistani spokesman expressed his country's "full backing" to Saudi Arabia against "recent threats" from Israel. He said "Israeli threats to attack Saudi missile bases would be a dangerous manoeuvre."

Regards

The Bahrain-based Gulf Daily News today quoted Pakistani President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq as saying in a message to King Fahd "Pakistan regards any threat to your country as a threat to Pakistan."

Saudi Arabia and Pakistan already maintain close military cooperation, though Islamabad has withdrawn troops loaned to the kingdom to strengthen its defences against another potential Saudi enemy, Iran.

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We specialise in small but necessary areas: Steininger

Austria has made inroads into the Gulf

By Jadranka Porter

THE immediate surroundings of the Austrian Embassy in Kuwait's suburb of Daiya are criss-crossed with trenches, diversions and occasional road blocks following the excavation work to lay new sewerage pipes.

What may be a mere irritation for a visitor to the area is an issue to ponder for the chief of the Austrian mission, Dr Wolfgang Steininger.

"Daiya was among the first areas to have a proper sewerage and water network in Kuwait. That was 30 years ago. In Austria the lifespan of such pipes is 100 years," says Steininger. It was not the Austrian made pipes that were installed in Daiya 30 years ago. The Austrians were not even in the Gulf then.

Today the small central European country is a competitor to reckon with in certain manufacturing and commercial sectors of interest to the Gulf states.

Joint venture

Squeezed by the competition from larger industrialised countries and by the economic slump in the Gulf states, but eager to maintain a share of the region's market, Austria has been remarkably successful in carving its own niche in the GCC states.

The secret of its success is the high standard of its specialised products and services of smaller interest to powerful Western companies seeking large contracts.

According to Steininger the Austrians learnt long ago to deal with their rivals from the West and Japan.

"We are used to the competition. We have selected to special-

ise in smaller but necessary areas in manufacturing industries and have excelled in these. That's one way for a small country like Austria to maintain a visible presence in the highly competitive markets," said Steininger.

Displaying skills of craftsmanship and know-how in some branches of industry, and manufacturing high standard products that are a necessary appendage to large-scale projects, the Austrians have successfully made inroads in the Gulf market.

It is Austrian crystal chandeliers that adorn Kuwait's Conference Centre. An Austrian company with a long tradition in designing theatre stages has installed one in the auditorium there.

The Austrians are major suppliers of photocopy paper. They also have specialists in manufacturing scaffolding ready to bid for projects on which speed in construction is of utmost importance.

In a joint venture with Kuwaitis they produce various kinds of cement for special purposes. Austrian fruit juices and syrups, present in Kuwait's supermarkets, are internationally renowned. A group of medical experts from Vienna visited Kuwait recently and were consulted on health issues.

In Saudi Arabia, Austrians are negotiating a contract on a second steel processing plant in Jubail to manufacture a wider range of finished steel products.

However, like their competitors, the Austrians have recently taken some beating. Their exports to Kuwait have declined by 40 per cent over the past two years. This was mainly



Dr Wolfgang Steininger

due to a drop in the value of the dollar against some European currencies such as the Deutsche mark and the Swiss franc to which the Austrian currency is linked.

In addition, the Gulf states suffered lower oil revenues and major infrastructure projects in the region were completed.

But Steininger believes that new business opportunities are opening up in the region. He refers to expansion, rationalisation and maintenance of the existing projects. A case in point are desalination plants which may need modernisation, says Steininger.

Some Gulf states may find that smaller units are to their advantage and Austria, even though it is landlocked, has the required technology, says Steininger.

The economic cooperation between the central European country and the Gulf states is developing against the backdrop of cordial government to government relations. These were further strengthened by last week's visit to Riyadh by Austrian

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky whose interest in the Gulf states goes back to the time when he held the finance portfolio.

Last February, Austria's Deputy Foreign Minister Thomas Klestil toured the Gulf states. The visit was significant in that it was the official's first tour outside Europe since he took office.

"It shows the importance we attach to the region," says Steininger.

Sandwiched between the Western countries and their Eastern Block neighbours, the Austrians have eagerly embraced neutrality at the end of the occupation by the Allies in the years following the Second World War.

Neutrality was intended to be and remains a permanent feature of Austrian foreign policy. Steininger says that Austria and Kuwait share a similar view of their role on the international scene.

Both countries are working for peace, have no territorial ambitions, are maintaining friendly relations with a large number of countries and are trying to be a positive force on the international scene.

Relations

Kuwait's relations with Austria date back to the early 1960s but stronger bilateral ties were established some 10 years later. The relations were substantially boosted in 1981 when the then Chancellor, Bruno Kreisky, visited Kuwait.

Kreisky is credited with establishing friendly relations with the Arab countries and setting a course for a policy supportive of Arab causes which continues to figure prominently in the coun-

try's foreign policy.

Following Kreisky's visit, a fully staffed embassy was established in Kuwait with Steininger becoming in 1983 the first resident ambassador. Banks and businesses established contacts in the area at about the same time.

Recently, however, concern was expressed in some Arab circles about the relations with Austria in case its president, Kurt Waldheim, succumbed to pressures following the latest round of investigations into his wartime activities. But according to Steininger the Arabs need not worry.

"There is no proof that the President was involved in any atrocities committed at the time. The president was elected constitutionally and there is no reason for him to step down," said Steininger, adding that it was Waldheim's delay in revealing the details of his war record that had stirred the controversy.

Tourists

Most of the GCC states forged ties with Waldheim during his 10-year tenure from 1971 as UN secretary general when he exerted efforts to diffuse tensions in the conflict beleaguering the Middle East. "The Arabs do not change loyalties quickly," Steininger notes with satisfaction.

He particularly values the mutual trust, friendly atmosphere and the resulting personal friendships that have stamped Kuwaiti-Austrian relations.

But he believes that individuals should also benefit from high level cordiality. And that they do, he says, referring to the increasing number of Gulf Arabs who have visited Austria. The number of tourists from the region has doubled over the past three years.



● Kuwait's State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Al Rashed, yesterday opened an exhibition of the works of Palestinian formative artists in Kuwait at the National Museum Hall. An artist is showing a painting to the minister. (Photo by Javed Basra)

US denies it recalled envoy to Saudi Arabia over missiles

WASHINGTON, April 2, (Agencies): The United States has said it has removed its ambassador to Saudi Arabia but denied a report the decision was provoked by the Saudi purchase of Chinese missiles or taken at King Fahd's request.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley told reporters that Hume Horan, US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia since last September, was in Washington "in consultations" with senior State Department officials and would not return to his post.

"He will be here for the next week or so ... he is leaving his post," she said. No replacement has been named.

She said Horan "is leaving his post in Saudi Arabia and he is working with senior Department officials about his plans. Let me say that the Secretary (of State,

George Shultz) continues to place the highest confidence in ambassador Horan."

Oakley refused to discuss the reasons for Horan's departure, saying only "it was felt it was in the national interest that he leave at this time."

Asked if the purchase of the Chinese missiles was an element in Horan's being withdrawn, Oakley said, "the Saudi decision to install the Chinese intermediate-range ballistic missile system is a sensitive issue between our two governments at the highest level."

"That's clear. Ambassador Horan has been involved in it, carrying out his instructions from Washington."

A senior US official, who requested anonymity, said the decision to recall Hume was made before Washington knew of China's missile sales to Saudi

Arabia. A third official denied a newspaper report Saudi Arabia's King Fahd had asked Washington to replace Hume.

"The Saudis did not specifically ask us to remove him," he said, adding the recall was unlikely to harm a planned visit to Saudi Arabia by Secretary of State George Shultz next week.

"He (Shultz) is still going there," the official said. "Hume was back in town before he left the country."

Shultz is currently en route to the Middle East to try to win support for a new US regional peace plan.

He is due to meet Arab leaders, including King Fahd, to discuss his proposal for Arab-Israeli negotiations to end Palestinian unrest in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Health delegation arrives in Amman

AMMAN, April 2, (Kuna): Kuwaiti Health Minister Dr Abdul Razzak Yusuf Al Abdul Razzak arrived here today heading his country's delegation to meetings of the 13th ordinary session of the Council of Arab Health Ministers.

He was received on arrival by Jordanian Health Minister Dr Zeid Hamza, Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires Fadhil Abu Ghath and a number of senior Jordanian officials and Kuwaiti Embassy staff.

The Arab health ministers are scheduled to start three days of talks here today under the

patronage of Jordanian monarch King Hussein.

Official health sources in Kuwait told Kuna that the Arab ministers will discuss important issues topped by ratification of an agreement on Arab cooperation in the field of organising the relief operations and supporting health services in Lebanon.

The sources added that the council will also discuss, during the three-day meeting, the health conditions of Arabs in the occupied lands.

They also will tackle the issues concerning medicine in the Arab world and supporting the pharmaceutical industry.

Kuwaiti leaders thanked

DIRECTOR of the first theatrical festival for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries Khaled Abdul Latif Ramadan cabled HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier and the Information Minister thanking them for hosting and supporting the festival.

Ramadan also thanked the Information Ministry, GCC general secretaries, Kuwaiti and foreign government parties and media channels including Radio, Television, local press and Kuwait News Agency, and other institutions for sharing in ensuring success of the festival.

Kuwait appointed law committee member

TUNIS, April 2, (Kuna): The Arab League Ministerial Council today appointed Kuwait as member of a tripartite Arab committee of international law for a three-year term with effect from this April.

A final communiqué issued at the conclusion of the council's 89th session named Dr Abdurassoul Abdurreda, head of the department of jurisprudence and legislation in Kuwait, one of the legal committee members.

Rejection

The communiqué condemned Israeli desecrations and aggressions on Al Aqsa mosque in the Arab occupied city of Jerusalem, and Israeli schemes to siphon off the river waters of occupied Arab lands and other natural resources.

The council made earnest appeals to concerned international organisations to stop the illegal Israeli projects in occupied territories.

They urged the dispatch of urgent relief supplies to the people of Lebanon to help them live through their current economic hardships.

The council sounded a categorical rejection of the American administration's intention to close down the observer mission of the PLO at the UN saying the action is a hostile one against the Arab nation and legitimate national Palestinian rights.

The communiqué stressed that the closure order is an unprecedented challenge of the international community's will, and a violation of UN charter and resolutions.

BA and MA examinations at Indian embassy

EXAMINATIONS for the BA (Part I and II), MA (Part I and II) and Doop of Punjab University will be held at the Indian Embassy centre. The BA II examination will be held on April 11 (1100 to 1400 hrs); BA III on April 19 (1100 to 1400 hrs); MA I on April 19 (0800 to 1100 hrs); MA II on April 19 (0800 to 1100 hrs) and Doop on April 29 (1100 to 1400 hrs).

Candidates registered for these examinations should report to the Embassy of India with their registration/admission cards.

Oil pollution hits Bahrain, Saudi Arabia

BAHRAIN, April 2, (Reuters): Balls of tar have been washing up on the shores of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia for several weeks but the source of the oil pollution remains a mystery, environmental officials said today.

They said a computer study by Kuwait's environmental protection committee suggested that leaks from Iran's Rostam oil platform in the southern Gulf were responsible.

But shipping sources said this was unlikely as recent reports indicated the Iranians were keeping afloat a fire at the well, which was damaged in a US attack last October, to burn off oil and prevent pollution.

An American fire-fighting company, Wild Well Control, teamed up with Dutch salvage operators Smit Tak International to begin the dangerous job of capping the well in January. The Iranians have now decided to finish the operation themselves, the sources said.

Iran's main Kharg Island oil terminal, severely damaged in an Iraqi air raid last month, could also be responsible for the pollution, they said. The attack crippled two Iranian tankers and damaged pipelines.

"It's all guesswork at this time," one environmental official said. "No-one knows exactly where the oil is coming

from." The balls of tar have affected around 25 miles of coastline between the Saudi cities of Rastan-nur and Al-Khoobar, destroying fish traps.

Malaysian minister leaves

MALAYSIAN Minister of Culture and Tourism Sabbaruddin Chik left here last night after a few-day visit to the country. The minister attended the inauguration of a Malaysian tourism cultural festival which was intended to highlight Malaysia's touristic attractions.



● An exhibition of prisoners' products being held under the patronage of the Interior Minister was opened yesterday by the Undersecretary, Major General Yousef Al Khorafi. The ceremony was attended by the Education Ministry Undersecretary, Abdul Rahman Al Khudari. Top picture shows Maj-Gen Al Khorafi cutting the ribbon, and the bottom picture shows the two undersecretaries and others looking at an exhibit. (Photos by Javed Basra)



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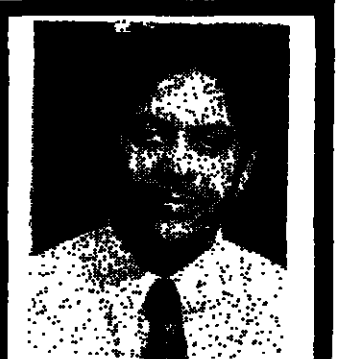
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Managing Director
Kuwait Gulf Airconditioning Est.
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Principal

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Hotel Meridien Kuwait invites applications for the following positions:

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2. Carpenter

Candidates should have previous experience in the same field and possess a valid residence permit.

Candidates interested in the above vacancies may contact the Personnel Department daily from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. except on Thursday and Friday.



Japan Air Lines — SAS Kuwait Hotel

The Management of Japan Air Lines and SAS Kuwait Hotel signed a contract for the JAL crew accommodation to be at the SAS Kuwait Hotel as of 1st April, 1988.
The contract was signed by Mr. Keiichi Sumida, Regional Manager for JAL and Mr. Werner Kuendig, General Manager of the SAS Hotel.

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The Administrative Manager
The Sultan Center
P.O. Box 26567, 13126 Safat.

Or phone on 4743155 to arrange an interview.

All applications will be treated confidentially.

Malaysian singer's rise to fame From rags to riches

By Fathima Ahmed

LIFE is about to begin for 33-year-old Malaysian singer Sharifah Aini. After singing for 20 years, and earning almost all titles in her native land, Sharifah has only now begun to enjoy living, as she puts it.

She was in Kuwait last week to participate in the two-day Malaysian Festival held at the SAS Hotel.

She didn't become a star overnight and worked hard to reach the top. The past is behind the singer. Yet, it is a part of her. A brilliant student, she gave up studies in a proper high school when she was 11 years old "because my father could not afford to send me to school." She was sent to an Islamic school, where she studied Bahasa and Arabic.

She remembers the poverty and deprivation. Yet, there is no bitterness or rancour. Instead there is a resigned acceptance.

"It was not the end of the world," she said. Luck was on her side. She was 15 years old when she took part in a talent contest for singers, organised by the radio and television in Singapore. She won the second place.

Versatile

"It was the beginning, a very small one, though," she said. She did not give up singing. She continued her studies at the religious school and took up a part-time job. Later, she became a teacher of religion earning \$200 per month.

She had to put seven brothers through school, and maintain a family.

"I had a responsibility, and I had to live up to it," she explains.

She had a gut feeling that she would succeed one day and it would be through singing. No

formal training was a disadvantage. But she had an edge over the other singers: the ability to sing any type of songs.

Cultivating her talent, she started singing at small restaurants. Then came her big chance. In 1968, EMI, Kuala Lumpur, signed her on. It was just the right break she was waiting for. She has never looked back.

So far she has recorded 700 songs, 42 albums, including nine in English, and is still going strong. She sings effortlessly in English, Bahasa and Arabic.

She confides: "My Arabic is not good now. But I can manage." She managed to win applause at the Kuwait concert, held as part of the Malaysian festival.

The secret of her success is "versatility."

"A singer must keep up with the times, flow with the tide as it were, and go along with the trends," she explains. So, she is "always there" when the tide flows, catching up with her competitors with "better and trendier tunes."

Competition keeps her on her toes and singing brings her comfort.

Today if she is the highest-paid and best-selling singer in Malaysia it is because of "sheer hard work and perseverance."

Her repertoire includes everything from sentimental ballads to jazz, blues, rock and pop.

Moods

Singing is a way of life. She switches effortlessly from one mood to another — emotional to seductive, changing her tone of voice, seducing listeners with her silky, lustrous voice. When she sings a number like "Nobody wants me" there are hundreds out there who'd want an encore.

"My voice is a gift from God." It is one gift that she

cherishes the most.

Now that she has reached the peak of her career, Sharifah has time to relax and look around her.

She has no regrets, even about the failure of her marriage.

"No one can have everything in life. You win some, you lose some. I failed to make my marriage work," she explains. Her husband, she says, was not the "right man" for her. So, she separated five years ago. But it was a decision that had a profound effect on her.

"I'm only human. There were times when I wanted to cry and let out my emotions. But I was committed to perform at a concert," she recalls. After a good cry, she put on the make-up and as the cliché goes, the show went on.

"No one in the audience knew what I was going through," she said. She paid a high price for being in the public eye, as she puts it.

Fortune

Now, that she has fulfilled her commitments to her family and herself, she has started "sharing her good fortune" with others.

She has adopted three children and two sisters. Despite her good intentions, there is a wee-bit selfishness in her gesture: she fears being left on her own. So, she gathers people around her — but she has been able to find out that elusive "right man" who will give her "emotional security." So, she has begun enjoying life — relaxing in the countryside with her son, brothers, sisters and adopted children — and generally taking it easy.

She has also started looking westward. "I have achieved everything in my country. Now, I want to try my luck in the West. After all, we can break all barriers with music."

In Kuwait, she certainly did.



Sharifah Aini: a talented singer



● The winners of the Great Ormond Street (G.O.S.) Children's Hospital painting competition pictured with Mrs Peter Hinchcliffe, wife of the British Ambassador in Kuwait. Mrs Hinchcliffe recently presented prizes to the winners at a ceremony held by the Friends of the G.O.S.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 Holy Quran
2.30 World News Via Satellite
3.30 Tan Tan: cartoons
4.00 News Summary
4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
4.25 Wa Ma'tasamah: Arabic serial; starring Siha Salem, Ta'amah Tamimi
5.30 Al Manahil: children's serial
6.00 Songs and Music
7.00 News Summary
7.05 Cultural Programme
7.30 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabt: poetry session
8.15 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic

9.50 Layali Hilmia: ep. 9, Arabic serial
10.50 Variety Show: presented by Amina Al Sharrab
12.00 News Summary
12.05 World News Via Satellite
12.40 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

4.15 Holy Quran
4.35 Football: Al Kazema vs Al Ittefaq (Saudi Arabia)
6.30 Danger Bay: "Time Out"
7.00 Understanding Islam
7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a light-hearted look at sporting events.

8.00 News in English
8.40 The Flying Doctors: "Will to Survive"
9.30 Twilight zone: "A Day in Beaumont." A scientist sees UFOs and investigates the mystery.
10.00 Together We Stand: a new serial.
10.30 Best-Seller: "Hoover vs the Kennedy's". Part One. This series is based on the conflict between FBI chief Hoover and the Kennedy family.
12.00 News in Brief/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
No Dead Heroes
Starring: Max Shapier, Tony Nero
Al Sahiya
Doing Time
Starring: Day Young
Al Hamra
Rajul Dhid Al Kanoon (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Yaseen, Mirvat Ameen.
Drive-In
Li'binaat Haaratna (Arabic)
Starring: Ahmad Bader, Badi, Iham Shahim
Al Firdous
Anhonee (Hindi)
Starring: Sanjeev Kumar, Leena Chandravarkar
Fahad Open-Air
Lofer (Hindi)

Al Fahadheel
Ithente (Malayalam)
Al Jahra
Anand (Hindi)
Granada
Dilruba Tangewali (Hindi)
Salaabkhat
The Roads of Selfless Love
Al Jleeb
Oridathu (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Real Genius

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.14 am
Zuhr	11.51
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.09
Isha	7.26

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Dahiyat Abdullah
Al Salem Gallery
Kuwait's formative artists are showing their paintings at the 20th annual exhibition at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque. The exhibition is open daily, except Friday, from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, until April 7.

Free Atelier
An exhibition of paintings by Samiya Ahmad Sayeed Omar is open daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm at the Free Atelier Gallery, Arabian Gulf St., near Amiri Hospital. It runs until April 7.

Ghadir Gallery
Sudanese artist Hasan Hakem is showing drawings and sketches at the gallery in Salihiya Complex. It is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm, until April 21.

Sultan Gallery
An exhibition of oil paintings by Pakistani artist Yasmeen Bhainia is open daily, except Friday, from 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm at the gallery, Al Soor St., until April 14.

MUSIC

Upasana
Upasana presents a musical nite — Ghanamanjari, featuring South Indian film songs, on April 7, 7.30 pm.

Geethanjali
A selection of Hindi, Tamil, Malayalam songs — will be presented by the same group, 6.30 pm, on April 8.

Both programmes will be held at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funasites. For reservations, phone 5643643; 3987409.

Sargam Kay Sitaray
A musical nite, will be held on April 7 at the Cinema Granada. Tel: 5723573; 5759283.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Natural History Group

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 5, 7.30 pm in the Gulf English School, Salwa. An illustrated talk on "Little Beasts of Kuwait" will be given by Dr. David Clayton. For details phone Eric Shaw — 3718417.

Seminar on Cinema

A seminar on "Cinema and Its Role in the Media," scheduled for April 4 has been postponed to April 13 at 7 pm at the Graduates' Society. The seminar has been jointly organised by the Cine club, the Kuwaiti Women's Cultural Society and the Graduates' Society. Farouk Abdul Aziz, Dr. Ghanem Al Najjar will participate in the seminar.

Book Show
An exhibition of English Language Teaching Books is open at the British Council, Mansouriya. It will be open from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 5 to 8 pm, until Monday.

Ladies Tea Party

The Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait (PBK) will hold the handicap bowling tournament from 9 am on April 8 at Club 300. The tournament is open to all men and women. Deadline for submitting entries is April 6. Fee: KD 4.500.

Kuwait Welsh Society
The Society will hold a "Nosen Lawen" (social evening), 8 pm, April 7. For details phone 3912384; 4874548.

Philippine Cultural Show

Auditions for singers, dancers and props-men will be held on April 8, 4 pm, at the Philippines Embassy premises, for a cultural show and food festival due to be held in June. The show will be organised by Kuwait-Philippines Economic Council in coordination with the Philippine Embassy, Flak and Kapilku. For details contact Gil Herico — 2522034; 2521754.

SPORTS

Colenutt Regatta

Al Kubbar Yachting Committee will hold its annual Colenutt dinghy-windsurfing regatta on April 14 and 15 at the TEC Sea Club in Fahadheel. Participants with own dinghy/surfboard (competition fee KD 5) and spectators welcome. For details phone 4842493 after 2 pm.

K.O.S.A.

Kuwait Offshore Sailing Committee (K.O.S.A.) will hold an extraordinary general meeting on April 19, 1600 hours, at Fahadheel Sea Club. All members are invited to attend.

Bowling Tournament

The Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait (PBK) will hold the handicap bowling tournament from 9 am on April 8 at Club 300. The tournament is open to all men and women. Deadline for submitting entries is April 6. Fee: KD 4.500.



● The winners of Arab Times Bingo Game No. 63 received their prizes on Wednesday. The answer to the clue "Three Score Three" was 63. (L-R): Mrs Ghazala Ehsanul Haq (Top Line); Zarifa A. Ghadiali (Four Corners); Marina Susan Mascarenhas (First Full House). Watch out for details for Game No. 64, which begins shortly.

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The eight successful teams from the Country Finals will fly to Malaysia in November with MAS to take part in the Grand Final which will be judged by experts from the renowned Ashridge Management College. Finalists will participate in a more complex exercise which will be run over 2 days and will reflect the Middle East business environment.

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At the hotly contested Grand Final, all of the participants will be awarded with a coveted Benson & Hedges gold medal; and

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A MAN wrapped up in himself makes a very small bundle — Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1706-1790).

OPINION

Stock market lacks trust of government

IT is said that the Stock Exchange committee will meet tomorrow to study the situation of Kuwaiti shares.

If the committee does not take present developments into account then it will be like a windmill — revolving with nothing substantial.

What does the Kuwait stock market really lack?

It lacks only the trust of the government and a further study of the measures adopted emotionally after the Al Manakh crisis.

After the world stock market crash last year, the British, American and Japanese governments did not impose restrictions on trade and trading in shares. They also did not limit share prices so that the prices could not go up beyond a fixed limit.

The governments of these countries called upon citizens not to be frightened because the situation was temporary and they had to restore confidence in their economy and in themselves. Some of them responded positively and some did not, but the trading rules and the stock markets remained the same. The governments did not take emotional measures or hamper the principle of free trade namely that everything is subject to supply and demand.

The limiting of share prices in the Kuwait Stock Market is strange and will lead to nothing except more recession in the market because people always search for commodities whose price may rise.

There is no reason to be afraid of inflation, because it is part of our economy. This is evident from the fact that the government one day hiked the price of land several times in a bid to distribute the wealth among the people.

We do not call for such inflation, simply because the government is not beginning a spending era. But at least the government should not create and impose laws and rules that are obstacles to free trading of shares.

Besides restricting the prices of shares, we find that the maximum number of shares upon which the price can be based is very little. A quantity of only 3,000 shares could determine the fate of 50 million shares. Therefore, why was this number not raised to 100,000 shares for example. This would be equal to only 10,000 shares before splitting.

If we really require knowledge on how to run the stock market, we should ask the world's main stock markets. Of course, we do not want the government to ask about trading in the Russian market, if they have one, or in the markets of Tanzania or the Comoro Islands, because the government will then say that its rules are better than theirs.

We want the government to just compare the Kuwait stock market with those in London, Tokyo and New York in order to see that we are harming our companies whose number does not exceed 40.

We are harming these companies at a time when they can play a very important role, not only in the local market but also overseas.

Instead of the government buying shares from Spain and Britain, it will find it more useful to do so here, and the activities of these companies will then extend in a manner similar to that of the government.

What adds insult to injury is the fact that the government is a large shareholder in these companies, and is also a guarantor of many of these companies and of banks in particular.

But it seems that the government is not interested in killing two birds with one stone. If the government strengthens and improves the position of these companies then it will also certainly benefit.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

China adopts carrot and stick policy

By William Kazer

PEKING, (Reuters): China has mixed toughness with special favours to its more than 60 million minority people, some of them restive, and Western diplomats said the careful balancing act is becoming increasingly complex.

They said on Sunday strains were apparent as minority delegates joined ethnic Chinese comrades in Peking for the annual meeting of the National People's Congress, China's parliament.

As China tries to modernise, channelling investment funds into richer coastal areas as an engine of economic development, it has raised fears in poor, remote regions that they could be left even further behind.

"This could widen the gap in income," said a diplomat.

In unusually critical remarks, the chairman of Tibet's government lashed out at central authorities at the congress meeting last week, accusing them of neglecting minorities in China's more than one billion population.

"The central government has failed to consider the special conditions of areas inhabited mainly by people of minority nationalities," said Doje Cering.

"These areas are no match for the economically developed provinces because of poor natural conditions and backward economies. It is unfair to let them compete with each other by the same rules."

Other delegates complained of the limited powers of the congress's nationalities committee and a need to train more Communist Party cadres from minority groups.

China says it has more than 50 ethnic and religious minority groups, from Tibetans to many of whom support separatists — to Mongolians and Koreans and assimilated Manchurians who have long since forgotten their own language.

Anti-Chinese rioting erupted last October and again early this month in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa. Foreigners quoted Tibetans as saying as many as 20 people died in the latest unrest.

Vice-President Ulanhu, an ethnic Mongolian, warned against "splittism," in inner Mongolia in a government radio broadcast in January.

"China has shown it will react with toughness if provoked on a basic policy issue — such as its authority," said a Western diplomat. "But it has shown it will accept relative openness and that has been shown at the congress."

Acting Premier Li Peng showed the firm hand of China's minority policy in his speech to the congress on Friday by calling for stern punishment of those involved in separatist riots in Tibet.

"The recent riot in Lhasa created by a handful of separatists was a grave incident that violated the law and undermined the unity of the motherland," he said.

Every young Tamil is potential foe

By Earleen Fisher

BATTICALOA, Sri Lanka, (AP): Eight months after they were sent to Sri Lanka to enforce a peace accord between rival ethnic groups, Indian soldiers are seeking a faceless enemy.

The Tamil rebels, who have waged a four-year war of guerrilla tactics and terrorism against Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority, seem to be everywhere and nowhere at the same time.

Every young man is a potential foe, whether dressed in trousers or the plaid sarongs favoured in the steamy heat of this tropical island.

Killed

Every few miles (kilometres), Indian soldiers man sandbagged checkpoints along the potholed roads and stop travellers who come on foot, on bicycles or jammed into minibuses.

Despite an Indian force estimated at 50,000 by the Indians and as high as 100,000 by Sri Lankan officials, a rag-tag band of Tamil Tigers rebels continues to kill and maim Indian soldiers, massacre Sinhalese villagers and extort money from Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims

alike. The Indians say there are about 2,500 hardcore Tiger fighters. The Tigers claim there are only 175.

More than 8,000 Sri Lankans, mostly Sinhalese, have been killed since 1984. India has lost at least 400 soldiers since Oct 10, 1987, when it launched an offensive to disarm the Tigers.

Despite India's firepower, armour, lumbering troop trucks, darting jeep patrols and helicopters, the Tigers slip from village to village and into big towns such as Batticaloa.

In Arappattai, five miles (eight kms) south of Batticaloa on Sri Lanka's east coast, Indian soldiers checked pedestrians' identity cards and munched snacks purchased in local shops.

A five-minute walk away, a man sought by the Indians for harbouring Tiger fighters said the rebels could not be vanquished. "Our fight is reasonable. We must win," he said, switching on an electric fan as an elderly relative tended his infant twins. The man asked not to be identified, although the Indians know his name and where he lives. They also know that the minute they come after him, his neighbours will sound an alarm and he will slip away — as he has done several times before — through the fences of woven palm fronds that give Arappattai the appearance of an impenetrable maze.

Fighting

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the largest Tamil rebel group, are fighting for an autonomous region in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. Although Tamils make up only 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, they are a majority in the northern and eastern provinces.

In Eastern province's Batticaloa district, the population of about 365,000 is 72 per cent Tamil. Sinhalese account for only 3 per cent, while Muslims comprise 25 per cent.

The Tamils say they have been discriminated against in education, jobs and by a 1956 law that made Sinhalese the official language of Sri Lanka.

Batticaloa, population 46,000, is a town of poor fishermen, small shops and many churches, monuments to the missionary efforts of the Dutch, Portuguese and British colonial eras.

Stretching along a placid lagoon, Batticaloa consists mostly of one-story buildings. Except for the pastel-painted churches, virtually every two-story building has become an Indian lookout tower.

The Indian presence keeps armed Tigers out of sight. But, according to residents who feared for their safety if their names were published, the Tigers make themselves felt in other ways.

Money

"They send notes asking for money. People who refuse are killed," a middle-aged Tamil said. "They have people in the banks, so they know how much money we have."

But this Tamil, like others who described the Tigers' fund-raising tactics, defended the rebels' cause as a fight for Tamil rights. "Just because they're militant,

they're not unreasonable," said a Tamil bureaucrat.

A landmine or a hand grenade still explodes occasionally in Batticaloa near a patrol or fixed position of the Indian soldiers or the predominantly Sinhalese Sri Lankan police force.

Sometimes the Indian response is disciplined. Other times it verges on panic, Batticaloa residents said.

Terrorism

Recently, a grenade was thrown at the Sri Lankan police headquarters. No one was injured, but it prompted three hours of gunfire that injured a half-dozen people, including two schoolchildren.

Sri Lankan police officers declined to say whether their men fired, but Batticaloa residents said the police apparently started the shooting and the Indians followed with automatic rifle fire.

"I think that day the IPKF (Indian Peacekeeping Force) was trying to terrorise the people of Batticaloa. They succeeded," said the Rev. Harry Miller, a Jesuit from New Orleans who has spent the past 40 years at St Michael's College, a primary and secondary school.

About 1,000 pupils were trapped in St Michael's as dozens of rounds hit the two-story plastered brick building. Then came a lull, and they started home.

"The roads were packed with children when the firing started again," Miller said. "The school children just panicked. They dropped their books and bicycles and ran," Miller said.

The 62-year-old Miller and other priests said the Indians told them the Tigers were firing from St Michael's. The priests said there were no armed men in the school or its grounds.

The Indian Army does not speak to reporters in the field except during escorted press tours.

However, an Indian lieutenant colonel who was asked about the seemingly one-sided fusillade said: "These are only 'jawns'."

— the Army's word for enlisted men. His face and voice conveyed a plea for understanding.



Biharis in Bangladesh

World's forgotten refugees

By Anis Ahmed

DHAKA, (Reuters): A craggy-faced 55-year-old woman, squatting in her small bamboo hut in a refugee camp, shooed flies off her two sickly grandchildren who were fighting over a piece of bread.

"We are the world's forgotten refugees," said the woman, Angur Bibi. "Life and death make little difference to us."

"We cannot even call ourselves refugees, because a refugee is someone who flees his country. In our case, the country fled from us," said another refugee, Abdur Rashid.

A cruel twist of history has left Bibi, Rashid and 260,000 other Urdu-speaking Muslims stranded in squalid camps in Bangladesh for 17 years.

Trying to make herself audible above the din of crying and

coughing children, Bibi's neighbour Akhtari Begum said: "We live in inhuman conditions. We have been betrayed all through our lives."

They migrated to East Pakistan from India's Bihar state following the partition of British India in 1947. When East Pakistan split from West Pakistan to become Bengali-speaking Bangladesh 24 years later, the Biharis remained stranded there.

Camps

They live in 66 camps across Bangladesh, run jointly by the Bangladesh government and the Red Cross. The largest, "Geneva camp" in Dhaka, has a population of 20,000.

It is a labyrinth of sagging, tin-roofed shacks, with families of 10 often squeezed into eight-foot-square (one-metre-square) huts.

Tuberculosis, dysentery and other chronic illness are rife in all

the camps.

Unlike Vietnamese crossing the sea in boats or Afghans walking into Pakistan, nearly 380,000 Urdu-speaking Muslims became refugees just by staying put when East Pakistan became the new nation of Bangladesh in 1971.

After fighting for the Pakistani Army during Bangladesh's war of independence, the Biharis lost their Pakistani citizenship. About 120,000 were resettled in Pakistan under a 1973 agreement but demands for repatriation continue.

Strike

About a dozen Bihari leaders have been on a hunger strike in Dhaka since March 23 to protest against what they claim is Pakistan's deliberate delay in taking them home.

By March 28, several had been sent to hospital suffering dehydration and other problems.

"If needed, we shall choose harsher measures including self-immolation and a mass march to Pakistan through India," Nasim Khan, chief of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee, told reporters at the camp where he is fasting.

He accused the Bangladesh government of "not paying enough heed to our appeals and attention to our problems. We don't have enough food, water or sanitation facilities. We are living in a sub-human condition."

Some Bihari youths have managed to find temporary jobs in barber shops, as shoe-shine boys, or as rickshaw-pullers and attendants in hotels and restaurants.

Some women earn a living by making tapestries, embroidering cheap clothes and selling herbal perfumes.

But work is not easy to find in Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries. Many Biharis, doomed to idleness, have become drug addicts or turned to crime, police said.

The Biharis have been ostracised from the Bengali community, despite common religion, with no intermarriage and little social contact.

By Nicolas B. Tatro

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (AP): Violent rioting has persisted despite Army restrictions on media access to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, challenging Israeli contentions that television cameras fueled the Palestinian uprising.

The measures against journalists have been unprecedented in Israel's 20-year occupation of the territories.

Reporters and photographers have been barred for at least three days and possibly longer from entering the areas where 1.5 million Palestinians live alongside 65,000 Jewish settlers.

The only legal access is with Israeli Army escorts, a procedure that prevents journalists from talking freely with Palestinians.

Authorities have sought to cut off major sources of information such as the Arab-run Palestine Press Service. Police padlocked the news agency's offices.

The Gaza Strip has remained sealed, because of its geographic isolation and because telephone lines have been cut. But reporters have circumvented roadblocks in the West Bank by using back roads, travelling with Jewish settlers or identifying themselves as tourists.

Killed

Palestinian journalists continue to keep the foreign press informed of breaking developments via telephone calls.

According to United Nations figures, 123 Palestinians have been killed in the unrest that erupted in the occupied lands last Dec 8. Hundreds of others have been wounded, and many more injured by beatings or tear gas inhalation.

Dozens of Israelis, including soldiers and Jewish settlers, have

been injured, mostly in stone-throwing incidents. One Israeli soldier has been killed.

On Wednesday, Israeli gunfire killed four Palestinians and wounded dozens.

Speaking before the bloodshed, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin argued that the press restrictions coupled with preventive arrests, economic sanctions and other measures would have a calming effect.

"The cumulative effective of the measures... will join to form a system that will bring calm," he said on Israel Radio.

Arieh Shalev, who headed Israel's military government in the West Bank from 1974-76, told an interviewer that media coverage was a key to the uprising.

Sympathy

"One of the most important elements of the uprising is to win international sympathy and cause damage to Israel in the hope that this will have political effect, as well," said Shalev, now of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

"The restrictions of the media is aimed at harming their campaign for world public opinion. This is a step Israel is taking to weaken the Palestinians, not to get at the journalists."

Even centrist members of the left-of-centre Labour Party supported the tough measures, reflecting fear that the clashes amounted to a war that threatened Israel's existence.

Motta Gur, a former armed forces chief of staff and now a Labour member of parliament, said in a radio interview that he asked the government to decree a "state of war."

"The French say, 'in war, one acts like in war.' I don't know if it's too much or too late, but in

this struggle for existence we have to prevail," Gur said.

Liberal critics, who were decidedly in the minority, argued that Israel was sacrificing democratic principles.

Ido Dissentchik, editor of the mass circulation Maariv daily, said in an interview the closure was a "heavy price to pay."

Price

"I think it's a hysterical step. I hope that it doesn't indicate that people in authority are losing their heads," said Dissentchik. "Israeli authorities must live with this problem called democracy."

Israel's use of bullets to quell the riots prompted wide-ranging international criticism, as did the policy of beating protesters declared by Rabin in January. Even some leading US Jews who traditionally support Israel voiced protest.

Critics cited Israel's collective punishment measures such as economic pressures, curfews, closures and house demolition. Israel faced strong international criticism over plans to deport or expel selected Palestinian activists.

There has been a solid consensus among ordinary Israelis that the riots were feeding off media coverage and that it would be foolish and self-destructive to allow it to continue.

The psychological basis for the decision to close off the areas, in part involves a unique Israeli sensitivity about being a victim.

One of the worst insults in Israel is to be called a "fryar," Hebrew slang for patsy, a person who lets other people take advantage of him.

Many Israelis feel they have become just that: victims of their own openness and democratic traditions.

Twenty years after King's murder

Plight worse for many US blacks

By Christopher Hanson

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): They live in America's worst slums, many leading hopeless lives of drug addiction, crime and illiteracy.

Up to 60 per cent of their children are born out of wedlock and babies die at a far higher rate than average.

Over half the men do not have steady jobs and for males under 35 the leading cause of death is homicide.

They are America's black underclass and, according to poverty experts, their numbers have tripled to about 2.5 million in the 20 years since the Rev Martin Luther King lost his life in the struggle for black civil rights.

"They are more economically isolated, more socially alienated than ever before," according to a recent study by the Commission on the Cities, a private anti-poverty group.

In the years since April 4, 1968, when King was cut down by a white assassin, the US black middle class has grown and flourished with the help of civil rights laws that King's protest movement had championed.

Income

Average income for blacks has nearly quadrupled since 1968 and over half of all black families earn middle class incomes of \$20,000 or more, according to government statistics.

There are many more black faces in professions such as law, medicine, and law enforcement and about 6,500 blacks hold elective office in America — up from 200 in 1965.

But life remains bleak for the black underclass that was left

behind in decaying slums after school and housing segregation laws allowed many middle class blacks to move into more affluent neighbourhoods.

Police in America's inner cities say gun-toting drug dealers have become the role models for many black youths because they can afford flashy cars and stylish clothes.

Honest work is usually to be had only at the minimum wage in a fast-food restaurant.

The plight of the underclass has worsened nationwide in part because affordable housing is shrinking, said David Maxwell, chairman of Federal National Mortgage Association.

He said that between 1973 and 1983, 4.5 million units of cheap rental housing were demolished or converted to other uses. Many entire families have been left homeless.

"It is hard to understand how we could allow this to happen in our rich country," Maxwell said in a recent speech.

Disgrace

Washington Post columnist Richard Cohen called the plight of Washington's poor, black slum dwellers a "national disgrace."

An entire section in one Washington slum area hospital morgue is reserved for stillborn babies, the result of poor prenatal care among unwed teenagers.

Drug-related shootings have rushed Washington's murder rate to a record level.

In Detroit, which has more murders than any other American city, black media consultant Al Dunmore said in an interview: "The underclass... is unmotivated and totally imprisoned because there is no chan-

nel for escape."

Detroit is nearly 70 per cent black as many whites have moved to the suburbs.

Racially-divided Boston's first black city council president, Bruce Bolling, told Reuters: "For working-class and poor blacks there has been relatively little improvement."

In New York City over half of those who died from AIDS last year were drug addicts, and some 90 per cent of these victims were poor blacks and Hispanics, city statistics show.

AIDS has hit the underclass especially hard because many of the poor are intravenous drug users and AIDS can be passed on by sharing needles.

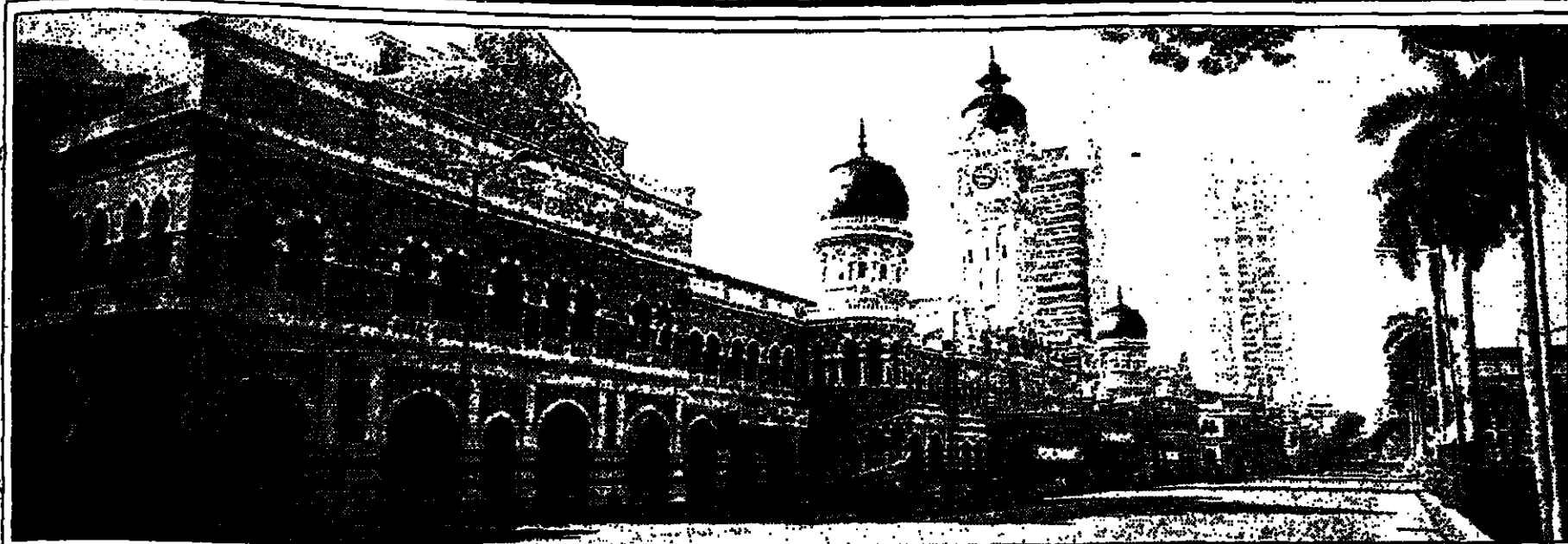
"I don't see anybody doing anything about the underclass," former Democratic New York Congressman Herman Badillo, an anti-poverty advocate, said in an interview.

Twenty years ago, the White House-appointed Kerner Commission said the underlying cause of riots that swept inner cities in the 1960s was "white racism."

Slavery

Roger Wilkins, a professor at Virginia's George Mason University, argues that slavery, which ended in 1865, begat generations of poor illiterate blacks. He says slavery's effects are still clearly evident in the ignorance and hopelessness of many slum dwellers.

But University of Chicago black sociologist William Julius Wilson contends that economics have also played a key role in enlarging the underclass, pushing more inner city blacks into poverty as blue-collar "smokestack" industries have declined.



Blending old and new: Moorish architecture and high-rise buildings in downtown Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia offers astonishing variety

Ancient culture in step with the 20th century

By Lima Al Khalafawi

MALAYSIA is a friendly country of exotic beauty. It combines an ancient civilisation, high-technology cosmopolitan cities, blending old world beauty with modern technology.

Malaysia is a good place to enjoy a relaxing holiday. Charges are reasonable and range from MS 40 to MS 440, depending on the type of accommodation, and your budget. (MS 9 equals KD 1 approximately).

It is an Islamic country where people of various races live in harmony. The people are friendly and visitors are given a warm welcome.

Shah Alam is the new capital of Selangor state, and is 40

kilometres from Kuala Lumpur on the road to Subang international airport.

Malaysia's State Mosque (Masjid Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah) was opened on March 11, 1988. It cost about \$162 million. The mosque, reflecting Moorish architecture, is built of marble, has the largest dome in the world, and can accommodate about 20,000 people. It is situated near Eastern Lake at Shah Alam.

The town centre of Shah Alam is to be completed soon will comprise a museum, theatre, library and children's playground.

The state secretariat building is 27 stories high, and contains the State Secretary's office, the Chief Minister's office and the state assembly hall.

The Memorial Plaza is an impressive monument.

The industrial zone of Shah Alam has more than 136 factories. Shah Alam will be one of the most spectacular cities in Malaysia by the year 2000.

The National Mosque at Kuala Lumpur has traditional Islamic architecture. Its high minaret rises from the centre of a pool. It is open to the public every day from 9 am to 6 pm except Fridays when it is open from 2.45 pm to 6 pm.

Kuala Lumpur has Moorish architecture and Tudor-style buildings. It has many museums, historic buildings and high-rise buildings. The National Museum has exhibits showing the vast heritage culture and traditions of Malaysia. There are also sections on Malaysia's history, currency and art.

Chinatown never sleeps and is the busiest and most crowded area of Kuala Lumpur. Stalls sell fast foods, batiks, tee-shirts, handbags and other goods. At night it is a bright market. There are many food stalls for shoppers to have a snack.

Central Park is in the heart of Kuala Lumpur, and is a restored relic of the past. It has an immense variety of products, and is a good place for buying souvenirs. Visitors can enjoy the traditional Malaysian cuisine here.

The Batu Caves, which have 272 steep steps, are 13 kilometres north of Kuala Lumpur. They display Hindu mythology, and are visited by pilgrims every year.

Templer Park covers 22 acres, and is a place to relax after a busy day. It is a mini tropical jungle and has a wealth of plants. It also has waterfalls, lagoons, animals and birds.

Pangkor Island is an ideal

holiday resort situated on the west coast of the Malaysian peninsula. It has unspoilt beaches and jungles with swaying palms down to the beaches, which are white, sandy, clean and warm.

There are many facilities at Pangkor, including snorkelling, wind surfing and water skiing. Two islands accessible by boat are favourite diving spots.

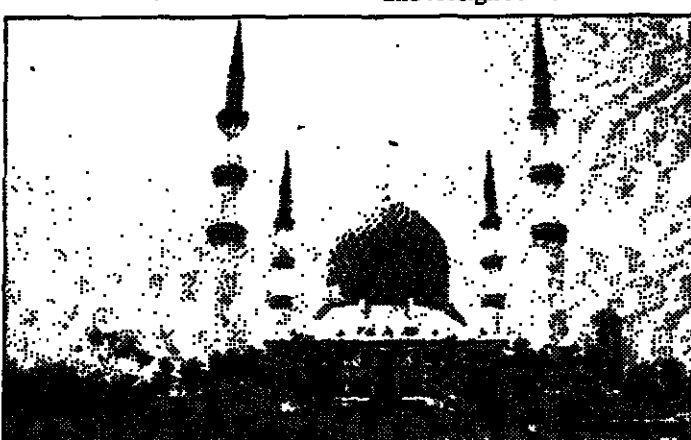
Shopping in Malaysia is a unique experience. Visitors can find an enormous variety of goods, including local handicrafts, pewter, batik, giant kites and antiques.

Malaysia has distinctive types of food, such as satay (sizzled barbecued meat), fried noodles and seafood.

Chinese, Japanese, Indian and European cuisines are easily available at big hotels.

Tropical fruits, such as chikoo and papayas, are abundant. Most of the larger hotels offer various entertainments in the night.

Malaysia has sufficient transport to meet tourist needs, and Malaysian Airlines operates an extensive network of domestic and foreign routes.



The Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah mosque was opened on March 11, 1988, in Shah Alam, the new capital of Selangor state. It has the largest dome in the world.

Solo passage to India

By Gill Charlton

I LEFT the grey English skies behind last Christmas to travel through southern India alone and with not one plane, train or hotel room booked beforehand. People said I was mad. But I reckoned that the best-laid plans can go wrong in India: if you don't have any, you can choose your exit from the chaos.

I flew to Goa on the first departure of a new charter service by Bristol-based Paramount Airlines and stepped out into warm, bright sunshine 14 hours later. I had decided to fly straight on to Trivandrum in the south, and work my way back slowly. So I dashed to the Indian Airlines' reservations desk and bought a ticket for the 8.15 morning flight in sterling.

By noon I was lying on the beach at Kovalam, two delightful bays of whitish sand backed by simple guesthouses, whose clean but basic concrete cells cost £3 a night. This is where world travellers come to unwind and fatten themselves on banana pancakes and spaghetti Bolognese, Indian-style.

After three days at Kovalam, I knew that if I didn't leave first thing the next day I would stay for a week. But when did the bus to Quilon leave?

Six, said some; seven, said others. In fact, it was eight, and I made the daily Quilon-Alleppey passenger ferry with five minutes to spare. This trip through the quiet backwaters of Kerala takes eight hours and costs just 20p, chugging across lagoons where kites wheel and through narrow channels overhung with palms, calling at small villages to pick up goods and yet more people.

Chinese traders have left their mark here; fishermen wear conical hats and paddle snake boats; cottages have curved tiled roofs; Chinese fishing nets cast shadows over the water.

It was dark when I arrived at the market town of Alleppey, but I jumped straight on a bus to Cochin, one of India's largest ports, a collection of islands and peninsulas jutting into a large natural harbour and connected by ferries.

I got the last room at the Seagull Hotel: £2 for another concrete cell, but it did have a wonderful patio from which to watch the ships. Fort Cochin is a parody of an English village. The former mansions of English coir merchants and the church of St Francis overlook a village green where small boys were playing cricket; pink and blue cottages line lanes with grassy banks. Vasco da Gama was Viceroy here until he died in 1524; his tombstone still lies in the church.

Over on mainland Ernakulam, there is a chance to see Kathakali, Kerala's religious pantomime/dance dramas from which several of Marcel Marceau's most famous mimes were lifted.

On Christmas Day I took the night bus to Mysore, former capital of one of India's princely states. Cooler than Kerala or Madras, it is a popular winter spot for Indian tourists and its hotels were full. Eventually, I found a room at the Lalithamahal Palace, a domed and colonnaded mansion overlooking the city, built as a royal guesthouse in 1926.

My £30-a-night room with

attached marble bathroom was larger than my London flat, a relic of the Raj with original furnishings. Mysore is a delightful combination of grand palaces and rural market town. Around every corner there's something new to grab your attention. Cows are milked on the street leading to Amber Vilas, the extravagant folly of a royal palace. In the bazaar, the smells of India assault you: sandalwood incense, freshly-ground Mysore coffee, jasmine garlands.

After a frustrating delay on a tourist bus on my way to see the Hindu carvings on the great Hoysala temples at Belur and Halebeedu, I decided to hire a car. It is a well-spent £20 a day if you can find a driver who speaks good English, for there's so much that's new and strange in the countryside that questions constantly tumble out. I flew on to Hyderabad, worried that just before New Year, a major Indian holiday, there would be nowhere to stay. Unusually, there was a hotel reservations office at the airport and yes, the Ritz, modelled on a Scottish baronial fort, did have a room, for £20 a night. It also had a swimming pool, a welcome relief.

The city is noisy and polluted, but nothing detracts from the magic of the vast bazaar: the parakeets and canaries in the bird market; the startling colours in the saree and bangle shops; the smells wafting from the perfumers; Brass Alley, where craftsmen hammered away at copper and brass vessels; and the famous pearl bazaar.

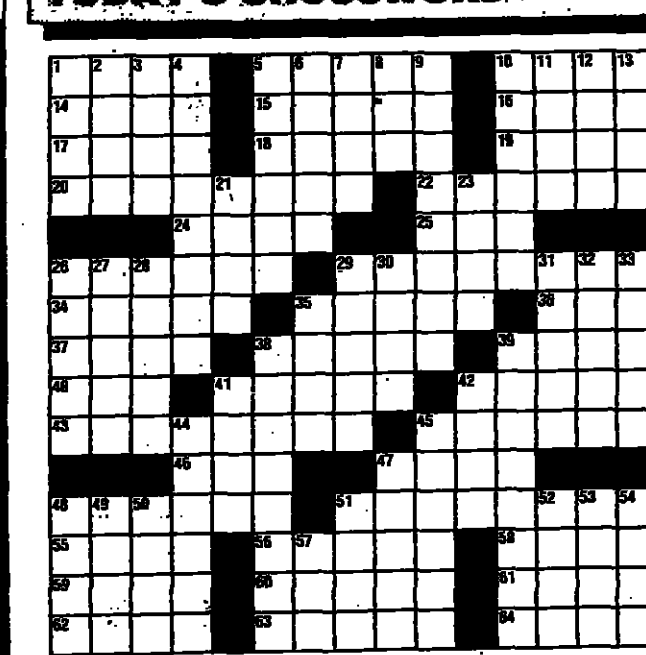
Some of the finest Moghul architecture in the south is dotted around Hyderabad and in the walled town of Bijapur, a 10-hour bus ride across the dry Deccan plateau, which I fitted in on my journey back to Goa. Another bus, and then a night train ride brought me to Colva Beach, an almost virgin strand of white sand: in my view, the best beach in Goa.

I was faintly surprised at the ease of travelling ad hoc through India during one of the busiest holiday periods in the year. The all-in cost for three weeks came to just under £900, including the flight from London.



On the lookout: a mother and child on a train in Goa.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 "The Red"
 - 5 Congeals
 - 10 Towering
 - 14 Hasty
 - 15 Saree wearer
 - 16 Toward the sheltered side
 - 17 Copycat
 - 18 Mileast title
 - 19 Take on help
 - 20 More severe
 - 22 Magazine-worker
 - 24 Visionary
 - 25 Negative
 - 26 Conductor
 - 29 Bardot
 - 34 Distant Nin
 - 35 Babble
 - 36 "Hee —"
 - 37 Concerning
 - 38 Word with farm or cattle
 - 39 TV's "— and Alle"
 - 40 Carpet
 - 41 Bill of fare
 - 42 The Q&Z, for one
 - 43 Marlene of film fame
 - 45 UMW members
 - 46 Coop dweller
 - 47 Ding —
 - 48 Search for persistently, with "out"
 - 51 Stripped of
 - 52 Lotion ingredient
 - 56 Goddess of peace
 - 58 Bathes
 - 59 Mone—"
 - 60 Casanova, for example
 - 61 Assam silkworm
 - 62 Shoe shape
- DOWN**
- 63 Calendar periods
 - 64 Cheer the team
 - 1 Historic periods
 - 2 Engrossed
 - 3 Czechoslovakian river
 - 4 Actress Julie
 - 5 Part of the lunar landscape
 - 6 More feeble
 - 7 Rare bird
 - 8 Gaffer's gadget
 - 9 Peace
 - 10 One of the Windward Islands
 - 11 Dismounted
 - 12 Dodecanese island: it sp.
 - 13 Wanton look
 - 21 Fair grades
 - 23 Magistrate of old Venice
 - 26 Scottish landowner
 - 27 Boredom
 - 28 NCO, familiarly
 - 29 B'nal
 - 30 Seldom seen
 - 31 Title for Macbeth
 - 32 Spud
 - 33 Pitchers
 - 35 Paris green spot
 - 38 In an elegant manner
 - 39 Actor Ben
 - 41 Algonquian-speaker
 - 42 Boundary
 - 44 Portent
 - 45 Shakers' companions
 - 47 Hash house
 - 48 Autumn
 - 49 Director Kazan
 - 50 Sea near Antarctica
 - 51 Hindu deity
 - 52 Waste allowance
 - 53 Wicked
 - 54 "Let's Make a —"
 - 57 Caviar

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SANK CLASP STILO
THAT HILAR ARAN
ASSN ALLFORLOVE
BOHEMIA FLUTTER
SYNCHRONY
MOTIFS TONN UPS
ERICA ANGI POE
TARSIA SNAPIN
ALE RDMS WIELD
LED LUAU CIRRUS
TALLGIRLS
STOODAT REDHEAD
EARLYTOBED ALTO
REAL OSUNA FLOE
ALLS REBEL TAPS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
TIME IT RIGHT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ 9 5 3
♥ A 8
♦ Q 10 9 6 4
♣ 8 7 4

WEST
♦ Q 7 6 4
♥ J 9 7 3
♦ 8 5 2
♣ 10 6

EAST
♦ J 10 8
♥ K 10 5
♦ A 7 3
♣ J 9 5 2

SOUTH
♦ A K 2
♥ Q 6 4 2
♦ K J
♣ A K Q 3

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♣
The time has come to abolish the popular belief that the players seated to your right and left at the bridge table are your mortal enemies. Just smile pleasantly, tell a joke or two, and you'll find they will go out of their way to help you.

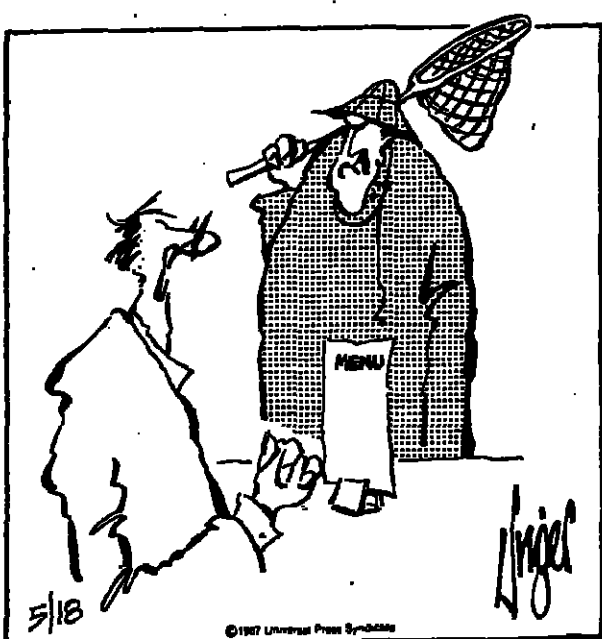
The bidding was straightforward. South had a perfect two no trump opening bid in most methods, and North had no pretensions beyond the obvious game.

By accident, West hit the right major with his choice of opening lead, because it removed the only entry to North's diamond suit. Declarer ducked in the hope that West had led from the king, but East won the monarch and forced out the table's ace by returning the ten.

Declarer tried a diamond to the king, but East was in no hurry to go up with the ace. To all intents and purposes the board was now dead. However, declarer found a way to resurrect it with the aid of the opposition.

To effect a strip, declarer led a low spade from hand. He won the heart return, cashed the top spades followed by the ace, king and queen of clubs to see whether that suit would break. When it did not, he continued by leading the jack of diamonds. Since that would have been declarer's ninth trick, East was forced to grab his ace. But all he could do was to take his winning club and, since his last card was a diamond, he had to surrender the game-going trick to dummy's high diamond.

Wasn't that a pretty duck of a low spade to set up the end position?



"I just want to double-check your order before I go. You did say 'Atlantic cod,' didn't you?"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)
Try not to create useless mystification. An old problem will recur but do not panic you will know how to deal with it. Have a little more patience. Be methodical.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
Leave yourself with plenty of time to get to your destination. You will be under better planetary influences and this will help you to settle down. Do not allow anything to get on your nerves. Be positive.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You will be able to make better progress than you had first thought possible. There is no point in delaying what should be done now; it will not be away. Give your partner an extra hug. Be sympathetic.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
A friend of yours will turn out not to be quite as good as you had thought. Do not be too easily influenced and do not allow appearances to deceive you. Do not eat anything too sweet. Be tactful.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)
You should not allow thoughts of work to intrude today. You should take an opportunity to make up a quarrel. Your personal situation will take a turn for the better. Be prudent.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)
The influence of Mars will help to straighten out your affairs. You should avoid being too critical. Do something that will please your partner. Be benevolent.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)
The moon's better influence will help you to deal with a tricky problem. You should try not to get into an argument. Try to think a little more positively. Be tolerant.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
You should not believe all you hear. If you are learning persevere not everything is quite as easy as it seems. You will be able to make a few changes for the better. Be tactful.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You will be able to do something that will help a friend of yours. You should not expect everyone always to see eye to eye with you. Try to avoid complications and intricacies. Be lenient.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan 19)
You will tend to be a little on the nervous side and should try to relax. Mercury's better influence will help you to maintain harmony. Do not drive too long or far without a break. Be sensible.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
The moon's influence will help you preserve your independence. You should not be so ready to believe that what you would like to be the case is. Make sure you do nothing detrimental to your health.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)
Today you should do what has to be done and then relax. You will tend to run out of confidence, but there is no real reason why. Take any opportunity to cheer yourself up. Be more optimistic.

SNIPPETS

\$3.8 billion Marcos wealth traced in Europe

THE government has discovered \$3.8 billion worth of ill-gotten wealth stashed away by deposed President Marcos and his cronies in three European countries.

This is different from \$1.5 billion of Philippine money already traced by the government in banks in Switzerland, Solicitor General Frank Chavez told newsmen.

Chavez said the information came from a former financial advisor of Marcos who is now based in Europe.

He can't reveal the advisor's name for security reasons and the three European countries where the \$3.8 billion is kept since the Philippines has no diplomatic ties with these governments, Chavez added.

Chavez said he will be meeting the advisor in a European country on April 10 to get more information on the \$3.8 billion and the Marcos cronies involved with it.

Gold-diggers nearing treasure

TREASURE hunters, who have been digging for gold since last year inside the Ipo dam compound in Norzagaray, Bulacan, said they were only a few metres away from what they believed to be a gold hoard left by Japanese soldiers in World War II.

The gold hunters said they have been digging in the area since February last year after obtaining a permit from Malacanang.

Avelino Manansala, who claimed to be a confidential aide of the presidential relative said the gold in the area is estimated to add up to about 120 tons. He said the treasure was buried by Japanese soldiers under a certain Captain Watanabe in 1944.

Manansala, who supervises the operations, said two Japanese consultants are working with them in the multi-million peso operation. They expect to reach the gold next week.

Bonfire of porn films

SCORES of seized pornographic films reels valued at several million pesos were burned at the Ninoy Aquino Memorial Park last week.

Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) chairman Manuel L. Morato said the event symbolised public indignation against lewd film materials.

Children of parents who are members of civil and religious organisations set off the fire "since they are the ones directly affected and destroyed by these illicit and indecent movies."

The pornographic films, stored in five wooden crates, were seized in the crackdown on banned movies during the past two years.

Morato said he decided to turn the films into ashes "before they fall into the wrong hands."

The seized films, according to Morato, were produced here and abroad and shown as "bonus attractions" in 2nd and 3rd class theatres, mostly in remote areas of the country.

Fake payroll of teachers

MANILA Mayor Gemiliano Lopez Jr disclosed the discovery of fake teachers' payrolls that have inflicted losses to the city government amounting to thousands of pesos during the past years.

The long-running irregularity came to light following the arrest last week by City Hall operatives of a woman-member of a syndicate of city employees, reportedly behind the fraud.

"Heads will roll," Lopez vowed.

Lopez said the suspect now in custody identified accomplices in faking and forging teachers' payrolls for payment of cost-of-living allowances (Cola) of mentors who have either died, gone abroad, on leave, or transferred to other offices.

Diseases hit tobacco industry

VIGAN, Ilocos Sur — Tobacco farmers in the Ilocos region are alarmed by the sudden appearance of "freak rains" causing the outbreak of tobacco virus diseases that may downgrade the prices of tobacco this trading season.

Rep. Eric Singson, (Ind., Ilocos Sur) said the estimated 70 million kilos of tobacco production this year may "go down the drain" because one-half of the total expected production may be classified as "reject" and about 40 million kilos of Virginia leaves may not even pass the test.

Philippines takes tough stand on US bases

Not enough money

By Kathleen Callo

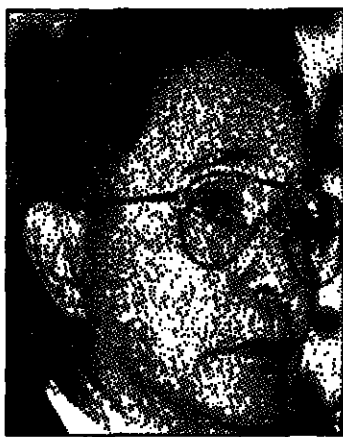
AMERICAN bases in the Philippines help Washington far more than Manila, yet other allies with American bases receive more compensation, says Raul Manglapus, Philippine Foreign Secretary.

He has suggested the Philippines will take a tougher stand both when the bases agreement is reviewed next week and in negotiations for a new treaty when it expires in 1991.

Opposition to the bases has been growing among left-wing and moderate groups in the Philippines recently.

"The powerful shadow of America remains cast over our land," Manglapus said in a prepared text of a speech recalling the Philippines' 50 years as an American colony.

The bases had a key role in



Manglapus: more compensation for foreign bases

American foreign policy, but this 90-year-old global strategy was outdated, he said. The Philippines was maintaining them as an accommodation of that strategy.

Greece, Turkey, Portugal and Spain receive a total of more than

\$700 million for providing American bases, compared to \$97 million a year Washington had pledged to Manila for the five-year period ending 1989.

The Philippines received an additional \$135 million, mostly in economic aid, in 1987 beyond the bases package.

Manglapus discounted Washington's claim that the bases provide vital security for the region. Singapore was the only neighbour that had called for their retention, he said.

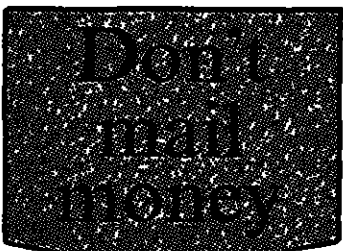
He also played down Washington's claim that they pumped invaluable dollars into the Philippines.

America said the bases provided \$270 million a year in salaries, construction contracts and purchases by American servicemen, Manglapus said, but two official Philippine studies showed that converting them to civilian use could bring in more.

istered cover, he said. The Philippines has international postal money order exchanges with the USA, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia, South Korea, Brunei and Indonesia.

Valdecanas said that for countries where the Philippines does not have money order exchanges, postal patrons should use the "bank-to-bank system."

He said that other items banned from the mails are subversive materials, pornographic and obscene items, flammable matters, intoxicating liquors, leaking parcels, lottery tickets, drugs, radioactive and injurious chemicals, and living animals under postal regulations.



platinum, gold, silver, whether manufactured or not, precious stones, jewels or other valuables—all these are under the convention," Valdecanas added.

Those with relatives abroad are advised to send their remittances through the international postal money order under a reg-

Trouble brewing for Filipino sports

THE Philippines faces the prospect of being banned from all international sports competitions, including this year's Olympic Games, if suspended by the International Olympic Committee.

The warning came from IOC representatives to the Philippines, Frank Elizalde, as he reiterated his earlier call that the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) should adhere strictly to Rule 24, Paragraph C of the Olympic Charter, granting autonomy and freedom from all kinds of government intervention in the conduct of its affairs.

Elizalde, who was guest at the weekly "Scoop Sa Kamayan" forum, said that there was government interference when Parangue Rep. Freddie Webb "ordered" that suspended tennis star Manny Toleto's suspension be shortened from six to four months, as admitted by Buddy Andara, president of the Philippine Tennis Association (Phila).

The element of interference was also present when President Aquino himself interceded on behalf of top archer Joann Chan for her inclusion in the Philippine team that took part in the recent Thailand Invitational Archery Championships, Elizalde said.

Unless this trend in the cases of interference by various representatives of the different branches of government in the affairs of the POC and its affiliated associations is stopped, Elizalde said, he will be forced to report this to the IOC, pending drastic action.

Negative

Asked about the nature of negative consequences in store for the POC if it is found out that it cannot stop the violation of Rule 24, Elizalde said the POC might be suspended "inasmuch as the records on a previous POC suspension several years ago are still kept by the IOC."

Elizalde was referring to the sanction imposed by the IOC on the POC eight years ago that needed the personal presence of Michael Keon, then POC president, at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, before the sanction was lifted in 1981.

The IOC man in the country also agreed that the penalty this time could be stiffer although he did not reveal it.

He added that such suspension, if it comes this early, will hurt the Philippine participation in the Olympic Games in Seoul this year.

Jose Sering, POC president, said that a suspension by the IOC also means that the Philippines cannot take part in all international sports competitions sanctioned by their respective sports federations.



San Miguel Beer's Norman Black draws an intentional foul from Ginebra's Dante Gonzalo during their game which the Ginebras won 118-113.

PBA basketball

Alaska rap Great Taste, Ginebra upset Beerman

ALASKA Milk agonised up to the dying seconds before subduing stubborn all-Filipino Great Taste Instant Milk, 112-106, in the PBA Open conference at the ULTRA.

The Alaska Milkmen, behind the gutsy plays of prolific import Andrew Kennedy, saw their 18-point lead at the start of the final quarter cut down to just two, 104-102, before hanging on to post their second straight win.

The loss was Great Taste's first in two outings.

Team manager Ignacio Go Tao of Great Taste said that their new import, Kenny Fields, was delayed due to passport problems and was scheduled to arrive soon.

With Kennedy, who was shooting 80 per cent (14 of 17) from the floor in the first half, the Milkmen raced to a 14-point bulge, 56-42, 2:19 left in the second quarter.

Ginebra San Miguel, struggling all the way, downed San Miguel Beer, 118-113, in the other game to forge a four-way tie for second place with a 1-1 slate.

Ginebra lost to Alaska, 124-119, last Tuesday, while SMB ripped Purefoods 119-104 on opening day Sunday.

Import Jamie Waller scored on a followup shot from under the basket off a Chito Loyzaga, missed charity in the last six seconds of play to clinch the exciting game.

Ginebra converted 11 three-

Scores

First Game

Alaska 112, Kennedy 48, Lazaro 12, Refosa 8, Villamin 8, Valenciano 8, Saldana 6, Pearson 6, Coloso 5, Lim 4, Ravanes 4, Alolor 3, Polio 1.
GT 106 — Tundies 26, Co 19, Caidie 17, Cabatu 6, Cristobal 5, Jarencio 4, Fabiosa 3, Ramos 0.
Quarters: 23-23, 23-20, 28-20, 112-106.
Refs: C. Ocampo Jr., M. Felipe, R. Besabe.

Second Game

Ginebra 118, Waller 33, Ampalayo 19, Jaworski 15, Isaac 7, Codinera 6, Disurto 5, C. Loyzaga 5, J. Loyzaga 2, Gonzalgo 2, Ducut 2, Mananila 0.
San Miguel 113, Black 42, Guidaben 19, Brown 14, Lim 14, Reyes 8, Trug 4, Dignadice 4, Graves 4, Calma 2.
Quarters: 24-27, 57-57, 88-85, 118-113.
Refs: G. Ledesma, D. Bayas, A. Barolome.

Team Standings

	W	L
Alaska	1	1
San Miguel	1	1
Great Taste	1	1
Ginebra	1	1
Purefoods	0	1
Shell Helix	0	2

Kapilku membership, mini-Olympics

A COMPUTERISED census of all Filipinos in Kuwait will soon be published by the Philippine Embassy. Those who have not been included in the Kapilku listing are requested to register and submit their membership/census forms at the embassy or at any Filipino restaurant. For info call: Jojo Arcangel tel - 4877793.

On April 8, 1988 the final meeting for the Philippine mini-Olympics will be held at the Philippine Embassy at 2 p.m. Teams who have not given in their entry forms may still submit them before this date. For details contact: Bong Melencio, 4877793.

Disasters in Gulf war, Indonesia, Japan

Bloody week for Pinoy seamen

By Glenda Gloria and Eva Diaz

LAST week turned from bad to worse as more reports of deaths of Filipino seamen were received. At least 38 Filipino seamen were feared dead in simultaneous attacks on two tankers loading oil March 19 off the Kharg Island at the Arabian Gulf.

At the same time, Indonesian newspapers reported that five Filipino crewmen collapsed and died while unloading sacks of red pepper at an Indonesian port.

Last Tuesday, 21 other Filipino seamen were believed to have been killed after a Philippine cargo ship — Captain Trader — capsized in stormy seas off eastern Japan.

Reports from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration said only eight Filipino crewmen of Iranian vessel t/t Avaj and t/t Sanandaj lived after a massive air strike by the Iraqis.

One of them was a seaman who left his vessel a day before the attack.

Two others who came from Singapore before boarding Avaj were also believed dead. They were identified as Roberto Gollayan and Reynaldo Baquiran.

The Manila Strait International Inc., a manning agency, said the four Filipino survivors of t/t Sanandaj who are now confined in hospitals in Dubai were: Felipe Ramos, Andronico Cartagena, Rudy Colera, Volentin Secaluya, Galiciano Bacay, Vitalicio Ostio and Sixto Bagis.

Manila Strait, however, said they still cannot identify who among the crew members were

dead or missing.

The t/t Avaj survivors who have also been shipped to Dubai were 3rd engineer Galiciano Bacay, chief cook Vitalicio Ostio and messman Sixto Bagis.

Manila Strait International manager Audun Aasheim said the Sanandaj survivors are "in a state of shock" but will need only about four days to rest.

The state-owned National Iranian Tanker Company, which owns the two vessels, is likely to give these survivors one month bonus, Aasheim added.

On the Indonesian tragedy, the Agency France Press reported that the five Filipinos who have collapsed and died were aged between 23 and 29. They had taken part in unloading

scrap metal from the hold of the ship in West Java port of Ciguging on Tuesday and were unloading pepper when they collapsed.

The Jakarta Post Daily reported that the five, who were believed to have come from the Panamanian-registered Sunning V, died before they could be taken to the hospital.

Police have yet to determine the cause of death although they suspected the victims had inhaled some kind of gas fumes.

The families of the Gulf war victims will receive death benefits higher than the standard rates provided by the POEA, according to Aasheim.

The POEA rate for master, captain and chief engineer is P250,000; for officers including radio operator and master electrician, P210,000; for non-officers, P170,000.

Musical protest over taxes

SONGS may be soothing to the ear but no matter how well rendered this group's songs are, they would surely jar Manila Mayor Mel Lopez.

The Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mangaawit (OPM) led by dynamic entertainer Celeste Legaspi is planning to sing before Lopez at City Hall to protest his "unfair" imposition of amusement tax.

Lopez ordered the group to pay the city government P87,750 in amusement tax for its earnings in a musical extravaganza, "A La Carte," held last July 8 at the Manila Hotel.

"A La Carte," which featured numerous popular singers and entertainers, raised funds for the OPM projects to help musicians in their careers. The OPM also seeks to solve problems plaguing the Filipino music industry.

In contesting the mayor's orders, OPM officials said that even the Bureau of Internal Revenue has maintained that the show was exempted from the tax as it was a "non-profit, cultural benefit show."

The case has prevented them from holding other cultural and benefit shows, OPM officials said.



Ramos warning: treat soldiers better than dogs

DEFENCE Secretary Fidel Ramos warned Armed Forces commanders against treating their dogs better than their men because the soldiers might retaliate by eating the expensive animals.

"The matter came up in a meeting with the Air Force Security Command (Pafsec) but Ramos' spokesman, Eduardo Pangasinan, said the warning certainly applies to other military units with canine (K-9) teams.

The defence chief admitted that trained dogs are very effective in detecting drugs and explosives but he cautioned Brig. Gen. Eladio Gonzales, Pafsec chief, about increasing the substance allowance of his K-9 corps.

"Enlisted dogs should be fed well but not better than the enlisted men, otherwise the enlisted men will eat them," Ramos told Gonzales half seriously and half in jest.

The Pafsec is the unit tasked primarily with the security of the country's airports and it has been using trained, expensive German shepherds to sniff out planes and baggage in search of smuggled guns, explosives, illegal drugs, and other contraband.

Other units which employ trained dogs are the Narcotics Command under Brig. Gen. Pantaleon Dumlao and the PC Special Action Force under Maj. Avelino Razon.

REPORTING from Los Angeles, LP Young Turks Chairman Rey T. Fajardo, who is presently on a lecture-tour of Fil-Am communities and media groups, said recently many native Americans resent the presence of former President Marcos in the USA even as the Fil-Ams had mixed reactions to the continued stay of the former strongman.

He said that in the course of his lectures, many Americans had privately expressed their opinions that Marcos should be returned by President Reagan's government to the Philippines "because the act of apparently protecting Marcos has created a bad precedent."

One American local government official, he reported, said that since the Shah of Iran was not allowed to come to the USA after he was deposed because of possible repercussions against America, he could not understand why the USA government would now want to burden itself with the numerous possible consequences of a Marcos exile.

Other private American citizens said that whenever a deported leader from another country sought exile in the USA, there have been troubles such as assassination attempts, reports of illegally stashed hidden wealth and anomalous business transactions etc.

They said that while America has traditionally been the haven for political refugees because of political beliefs or possible harassment in their own countries, Marcos' case is different because he wants to return to the Philippines, not remain in exile.

They claimed this was another reason why the Philippines continues to receive unfavourable publicity in US media which in turn results in unfavourable reactions from the American government and Congress for Philippine requests for assistance and better terms in the military, economic and political areas.

Meanwhile, Fajardo, who has been daily meeting with various groups of Filipino-Americans,

Americans resent Marcos presence



Marcos and Imelda: many Americans feel that protecting them has created a bad precedent

stated that "our countrymen are worried and show mixed reactions to the possible return of Mr Marcos to the Philippines."

He said Hawaii Filipino on his flight to the US mainland appeared fiercely loyal to the former president, with whom they share the same Ilocano strains even as West Coast Filipinos seemed evenly divided on the prospect of a Marcos homecoming.

"In San Francisco and Los Angeles," Fajardo reported, "the Pampango and Bicolano groups wanted Marcos to stay in the USA in the meantime, while the Ilocano association wanted more his return, even as they requested anonymity due to the fact that they still have relatives in the Philippines."

However, East Coast based Filipinos were adamantly against a Marcos return, according to Fajardo, "but this is probably due to their distance and lack of information."

"Most Filipinos however," Fajardo said, "are aware that legally Marcos has every right to

return to his own country, except that right now, both the US and Philippine government leaders have not yet decided to allow him back home."

They urged a very serious and cautious study of the matter in accordance with Philippine laws, US laws, and Philippine traditions.

Fajardo who received an award for his outstanding publication "Effective Leadership through parliamentary procedures" from the Meeting and Session Planners Inc. of Los Angeles, is winding up his lecture-tour and has already signed an agreement for the publication and distribution of his book in the United States.

He said he would try again to interview former president Marcos while in transit in Honolulu on his way back to the Philippines.

He concluded by saying that the consensus of Filipinos and foreigners he had met while on his trip was approval or acceptance or tolerance of a Marcos return rather than outright rejection.

Ogie: all set for stardom

By Jackie Regala

OGIE Alcasid croons like a real pro: gyrates and spreads his almost "boyish yet sexy" appeal to his audience whenever he performs.

This early, Ogie has gathered quite a big following — mostly from the sector of screaming collegialas who all find Ogie's charm and style simply irresistible. He is today's pop idol — confident, energetic and dedicated to his craft.

Ogie's first entertainment exposure was in the musical "Oliver" at age 10. He belongs to a family of music lovers whose reunions were spent singing and entertaining each other rather than just eating and talking together.

Being able to develop a passion and a certain flair for music, Ogie in his high school days at La

Salle Greenhills joined the Kundirana. He became the president of the group and eventually got a gold medal award for his musical excellence in 1984 with the Kundirana. The same award was given to Gary Valenciano in 1983 and to Leo Posadas in 1984.

"My stint with the Kundirana is very memorable and advantageous, especially in my chosen career now. We were not only taught the proper ways of singing but we were also trained to be efficient, young ambassadors of goodwill when we performed abroad. We were like one big Christian family where love, camaraderie and good moral values existed. Until now, I still carry with me the Kundirana values," Ogie said.

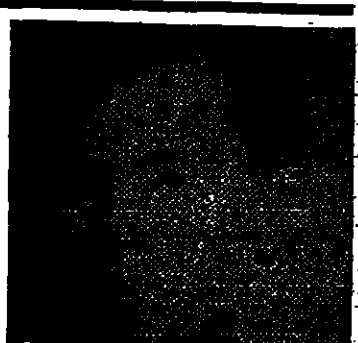
Our interview with Ogie took place in their condominium unit at Magallanes and it enabled us to see the young Ogie at work in his music room. Aside from the

wide-inch coloured TV and the beta machine, the room contains sophisticated instruments like a drum machine, synthesizer, a mixer and a four-track recorder.

"I never had formal lessons in music. I only learned to strum chords on the piano when I was with the Kundirana. From that time on, I started developing my own set of chords and my music. I sort of completed my music room with instruments I'll be needing for my career because it helps me work better and faster with my compositions. I learned to play these instruments only by ear," Ogie said.

Ogie played three sample pieces for us on his synthesizers and we were quite impressed with his original works because these are not only good but commercially viable too.

These works will also be put into good use since Ogie is now working on his first long-play



Ogie Alcasid: confident, energetic and dedicated to his craft record album under Viva Records. Aside from containing his own compositions, the album will also feature a song which Ogie co-wrote with Gary Valenciano.

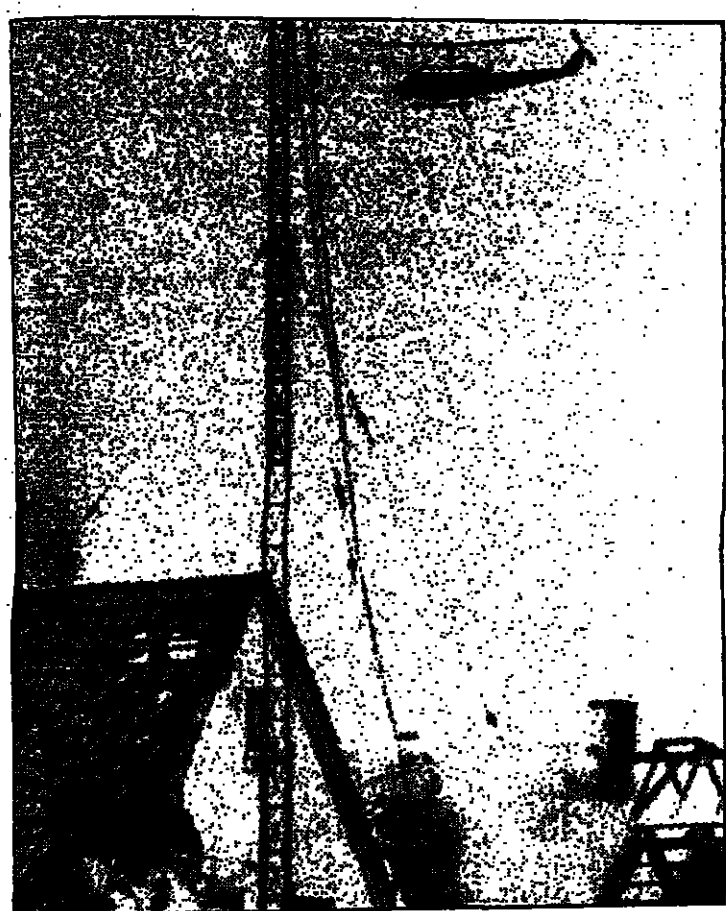
A health buff, Ogie (who's lack of height is very much compensated with his fit physique) finds singing very similar to sports. "Singing is like a sport to me. One exerts too much efforts on stage so he has to be physically fit to carry on his numbers well on stage."



A GROUP of young school children in typical Easter religious costume gather to rehearse for the annual Easter procession in Gerona, Spain (picture left) and at right Nancy Reagan checks her Easter eggs collection at the White House. The wooden eggs, decorated by famous artists and cartoonists, are on display each year during Easter. (Reuter wirephotos)



FRANCINE SWIFT, from Beverly Hills, California, who became Miss North America in 1986 and Miss International in 1987, standing in front of Istanbul's Colimabance mosque. Swift told reporters she would compete in the Miss Globe beauty contest in Turkey this summer, in which 30 countries will take part. (Reuter wirephoto)



A US Air Force helicopter hoists above the smoking remains of houses after a US F-16 fighter crashed into a village. The pilot and one villager were killed. (Reuter wirephoto)



THREE Muslim militants stand handcuffed in a cage at Cairo's State Security Court during the first session of their trial which began yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



ONE of the elderly delegates to the Chinese National People's Congress receives medical attention yesterday in the Great Hall of the People after he was rushed from his seat, having fallen ill during a series of long speeches. (Reuter wirephoto)



PRESIDENT Reagan is flanked by his son Michael as he leaves the White House after signing the Contra aid bill on Friday. Reagan left the White House to spend a week in California. (Reuter wirephoto)



POPE John Paul II met US Secretary of State George Shultz in a private audience at the Vatican yesterday. Shultz is on his way to the Middle East. (Reuter wirephoto)



TURKISH Prime Minister Turgut Ozal (left) is greeted on his arrival in Baghdad on Friday by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. (Reuter wirephoto)



GAGGED demonstrators at a church service protest the South African government's effective banning of seventeen anti-apartheid groups. (Reuter wirephoto)



WEALTHY Lebanese businessman Ramzi Ata Dalloul, who escaped from kidnappers, stands outside his home in Kensington, West London. (Reuter wirephoto)



BRITISH ski jumper Eddy 'the Eagle' Edwards (left) with cricket star Ian Botham (right) seen at Mireval in southern France during their march to collect funds to help fight leukaemia. Botham is retracing Hannibal's route through the Alps with elephants. (Reuter wirephoto)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

West German trade surplus narrows

WIESBADEN, April 2, (Reuters): West Germany's trade surplus narrowed in January to 8.5 billion marks (\$5.1 billion) from a record 13.0 billion marks (\$7.8 billion) in December, the Federal Statistics Office said yesterday.

The current account surplus, which includes invisible trade such as tourism and financial services, also fell, and stood at 4.8 billion marks (\$2.9 billion) compared with nine billion marks (\$5.4 billion) the month before.

The results were in line with analysts' expectations that the surpluses would narrow in January, due to seasonal factors.

Trend

Giles Keating, European economist at CSFB in London, said the West German current account surplus was likely to narrow significantly this year, while the trend for trade was flat.

West Germany, which boasts Europe's strongest economy, has pledged to cut its surplus to quell criticism from other countries, the United States in particular, that it is not doing enough to redress global trade imbalances.

The West German economics ministry's advisory committee said in a report on international trade this week that West Germany should import more to reduce its trade surplus, and doing so would also help its own export industry.

Goods

Opening up West German markets to foreign goods would improve export chances, since a rise in imports would prevent the mark rising so strongly, it argued.

It added that the government should not stop the inflow of foreign goods under the pretext that higher imports would increase unemployment at home.

But the committee noted that repeated calls from the United States that West Germany should conduct a more expansive economic policy would hardly help it reduce its trade deficit, since so few US goods were sold in West Germany.

India to back Ifad's third replenishment efforts

ROME, April 2, (Opecna): India will support the efforts to reach a satisfactory conclusion in negotiations on the third replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad), Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said.

At a meeting with visiting Ifad President Idriss Jazairy in New Delhi, Gandhi reiterated that the fund "has effectively demonstrated the capacity of the international community to join hands in the universal battle against poverty, hunger and unemployment."

Cooperation

On South-South cooperation, Jazairy said that the financial contribution of Opec and other developing countries, amounting to over 40 per cent of Ifad resources, reflected a concrete example of cooperation among developing nations.

The Indian Prime Minister and the Ifad president also discussed joint undertakings between the country and the agency set up to help developing countries in their efforts to improve living standards in the rural areas.

World rice stocks falling sharply: FAO

ROME, April 2, (AP): World rice stocks are forecast to fall by more than 30 per cent this year to about 35 million tons, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation reported today.

A report by FAO's intergovernmental group on rice said the change in the world rice market — from supplies to limited supplies and rising prices — was due largely to generally adverse climatic conditions, including the failure of the 1987 monsoon. It also said some countries had adopted measures to reduce output.

FAO warned that another year of falling output could cause serious food security problems. Rice production last year was 458 million tons, down from 474 million tons in 1986.

FAO said the impact would be felt mostly by low income, food-deficient developing countries which will have to import less rice. Food aid supplies in rice could also be threatened, it said.

Prices are rising rapidly as the supplies, built up over the past 10 years, have fallen substantially due to the reduced output last year, the report said.

America cuts duty-free imports from Third World

US job market still thriving

WASHINGTON, April 2, (Reuters): Although first government indications of US economic performance in March show a still thriving job market, there were disturbing signs in the crucial manufacturing sector.

The Labour Department yesterday said the US civilian unemployment rate last month fell to 5.6 per cent, its lowest level in nearly nine years and down from 5.7 per cent in February.

The economy also continued to create jobs at a brisk rate as non-farm payrolls grew by 262,000 in March, the department said. Payrolls have grown by nearly one million so far this year to 104.6 million, it said.

Gains

But most of last month's job gains came in service industries, government and construction.

Employment at factories stagnated in March at 19.42 million after two months of slow growth, while the average workweek in manufacturing industries shrank slightly to 40.9 hours from 41.0 hours, the department said.

Economists had been expecting the manufacturing sector, which has benefited from an export boom and brisk spending by business on new equipment,

to take up the slack left by lower growth in consumer spending and keep the economy growing through this year.

Jobs

Despite rapid growth in factory jobs at the end of last year, the lack of any recent expansion shows factory output may be slowing, economists said.

"It looks like manufacturing is a little bit on hold right now," said Donald Ratajczak, director of economic forecasting at Georgia State University. "There can't be a lot of industrial activity out there."

Indeed, gains in industrial production slowed to 0.2 per cent in February following increases of 0.3 per cent in January and 0.5 per cent in December, the Federal Reserve Board said in a report last month.

Although the White House and some economists said the overall gains in employment reflected the strength of the economy, others said the gains could be difficult to sustain and would lead to more consumption spending, which could hurt the US trade balance by spurring more import demand.

The number of idle workers fell to 6.80 million in March from

6.94 million as the overall unemployment rate, which takes into account military personnel as well as civilians, fell to 5.5 per cent from 5.6 per cent in February, the government said.

Meanwhile, US construction spending in February fell \$1.0 billion, or 0.3 per cent, to an annual rate of \$391.5 billion, the Commerce Department said in a separate report. The unexpected decline followed a 2.8 per cent drop in January.

Although the construction spending drop was widespread throughout the private sector, the bulk of it was in new homes and apartment buildings, the Commerce Department said.

Meanwhile, the United States announced yesterday that beginning July 1 it will eliminate duty-free imports on products worth \$1.1 billion in 1987, shipped from 140 Third World countries.

Competitive

A US official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the decision would add \$50 to 100 million a year to the tariffs collected by the United States.

Total US imports under this system of "generalised special preferences," the biggest of its kind in the world, reached a

record \$16.3 billion last year. It is designed to help poor countries improve their production in about 3,000 different products.

"As developing countries become increasingly competitive, we are removing tariff preferences... for those products where duty-free treatment is no longer warranted," said US Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter in a statement with the announcement.

Another \$114 million worth of goods, previously cut from the list, was reinstated.

And \$40 million worth of new products was added. Hong Kong will be the biggest beneficiary, but only until mid-1988, when it is due to lose its duty-free privilege entirely.

None of the exporting countries was removed from the list in this annual review.

Yeutter said five countries whose labour and human rights situations had been challenged by labour unions and others in the United States will remain eligible because of "improvements in their practices." They are Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Turkey.

The trade bill approved on

Thursday by conferees of the Senate and the House of Representatives would increase pressure on Third World countries on labour issues. It grants the US President power to retaliate against exports of countries where the government refuses to give workers internationally recognised rights, such as the right to form unions.

Supporters of the bill argue that denying such rights gives those countries an unfair trade advantage since it enables them to keep wages down.

President Ronald Reagan's administration opposed the provision but Rep. Donald J. Pease, its chief sponsor, said in an interview yesterday it has not threatened a presidential veto on that ground. Pease said such provisions are intended to give countries an incentive to change their labour laws.

"It's already happening in country after country," he added.

Yeutter's office gave Thailand until Dec 15 to comply with US conditions for protecting US patents and copyrights. He has been asked by business groups to deny duty-free privileges to Thailand on its products.

Al Wattari in Muscat

THE acting secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), Abdelaziz Al Wattari, yesterday held a meeting in Muscat with Oman's Minister of Petroleum and Minerals, Said Ahmed Al Shanfari, a press release issued by the Opec headquarters in Kuwait said.

According to the press release, the Omani minister briefed Al Wattari on the activities and progress of the petroleum sector in Oman and exchanged views with him on oil and energy matters in the Arab world in general.

Cooperation with non-Opec Arab states is one of the priorities outlined in Opec's programme of action for 1987-1991.

Al Wattari arrived in Muscat yesterday to attend the annual meeting of the joint Arab financial and monetary institutions.

Economists worried

America relaxed over weak dollar

WASHINGTON, April 2, (Reuters): US officials are taking a relaxed view of the dollar's recent weakness, but economists are worried that a new speculative attack could expose policy strains between Washington and its main trading partners.

If dollar selling intensifies, the Group of Seven nations — the United States, Canada, Japan, West Germany, Britain, Italy and France — could face a tough choice, the economists said.

They could let the dollar fall, risking upsets to the world's financial markets, or prod Washington to raise interest rates, making the dollar more attractive but endangering the fragile world economic expansion.

Or they could buy massive

amounts of dollars for yen and marks, boosting the money supplies of Japan and West Germany and thus running the risk of inflation.

US officials see no need to ponder such awkward decisions now because they feel modest dollar purchases being made by the Bank of Japan and the US central bank will prop the unit up.

Stability

Although the decline has not been steep, it has sent jitters through stock and bond markets worried that it will fuel inflation and deter foreign investment in the United States.

But Beryl Sprinkel, President Reagan's chief economic adviser, said exchange rate fluctuations were only to be expected

after several weeks of narrow trading ranges.

"Near stability is good enough. What we don't want is major volatility over the longer run in exchange rates," he told the National Economists' Club on Monday.

Dealers said speculators turned against the dollar last week in expectation of heavy selling by Japanese life insurance firms in the new fiscal year on April 1. They have an interest in supporting the dollar until then because of accounting rules.

Even if the selling does not materialise, economists said the dollar would remain vulnerable because of still-huge US trade and budget deficits. Also, the economies of Japan and Britain are booming, luring capital away

from the dollar.

Officials from the G-7 nations solemnly affirm determination to cooperate, but differences of opinion are near the surface.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, said the dollar's stability depended on appropriate US policies, including higher interest rates.

US officials can scarcely conceal their anger when European ministers give such advice from time to time.

But analysts question whether central banks can afford to prop up the dollar indefinitely.

Either foreign-currency reserves are limited, as in the case of the United States, or sales of domestic currency inflate the money supply and cause inflationary worries.

China unveils radical ways to attract money to Hainan

BEIJING, April 2, (Reuters): Hainan, a poor tropical island off South China, will spearhead the country's drive to attract foreign investment with radical experimental policies unseen under the communist government, a senior official said today.

"The main form of economic activity will be ventures wholly or partly owned by foreign investors, and private business will also develop rapidly," Liang Xiang said.

Ownership

"Public ownership will not be the dominant economic form," he told a news conference.

Liang is deputy head of a committee paving the way for Hainan to be made a full province by the end of the current annual session of the National People's Congress, China's parliament. Hainan is now administered by Guangdong province.

Growing reports of Hainan's future prosperity have drawn thousands of young people there in search of work.

Liang said 150,000 people had applied for jobs on the island and 26,000 had come in person, although jobs had been given to only 2,600.

Hainan will allow free

movement of capital, foreigners and nearly all goods, as well as non-government newspapers, he said.

China's leaders have promised the island and its six million people more freedom and autonomy than any other area in what Western analysts see as a bid to emulate Nationalist Taiwan's impressive economic achievements.

Liang said that within the last six months Hainan had signed more than 100 contracts totalling over \$140 million.

A Japanese businessman who visited Hainan said the island had a long way to go.

"Many delegations have gone from Japan to Hainan. It is very backward and lacks basic infrastructure like good roads, electricity and telephones," he said.

Skilled

"If Japanese firms want to invest in China, they will choose already developed areas, with better infrastructure and skilled work force. They won't go to Hainan," he said.

A Chinese official who went on an inspection tour last month said it was 70 per cent short of power. "There is just a short rail-

way and some roads built by the military."

He said many young people had given up their jobs on the mainland and had gone to Hainan to seek work, looking for better opportunities and more freedom.

"They have not found work but have stayed there, unwilling to go back. They are selling cigarettes and fishballs from street stalls," he added.

Liang is a former mayor of the Shenzhen special economic zone bordering the prosperous British colony of Hong Kong.

Shenzhen people quip that the only thing communist about their district is the Chinese flag flying over the municipal government building.

Prominence

Hainan shot to national prominence in 1985 when the state-run press revealed its officials had made millions of dollars in one of China's biggest scandals since its open-door policy began in 1978.

The scandal involved the sale of 90,000 cars imported to Hainan duty-free to the rest of China, where import duties are high.

Yugoslavia and IMF reach standby accord

BELGRADE, April 2, (AP): Yugoslavia and the International Monetary Fund have reached an accord on a draft standby agreement that calls for more intensive monitoring of the country's overall economic performance, a senior official said yesterday.

The accord, calling for a one-year standby agreement, represents a precondition for the continuation of negotiations between Yugoslavia and its Western creditors on the rescheduling of a \$20-billion debt, Vice-Premier Janez Zemljic said.

Rescheduling

He said the agreement with the IMF would be the basis for long-term rescheduling of Yugoslavia's debts to world member-countries of the Paris Club.

The Paris Club is an informal institution of Western government officials who meet regularly to examine requests for debt relief from financially strapped countries.

Yugoslavia counts on the rescheduling of at least \$1.3 billion and obtaining \$2.1 billion of fresh loans in 1988, Yugoslav banking sources told the Associated Press.

The draft standby agreement was reached during negotiations

with a IMF mission in Belgrade on Wednesday, the sources said. It will become official once it is approved by the IMF governing bodies, they added.

A standby agreement is the highest-level automatic monitoring of the economy by the IMF. It was replaced almost two years ago by so-called enhanced monitoring of the Yugoslav economy, which signals a lesser degree of IMF watchfulness.

Rampant

In May 1986, the creditors assessed that Yugoslavia's economic situation was more stable, giving the government more independence in determining economic policies such as interest rates and the dinar exchange rate.

Meanwhile, this country has been faced with stagnating Gross National Product, rampant inflation — which is hovering around 170 percent — and growing social discontent.

In current negotiations with foreign creditors, the government has proposed that Yugoslavia use a maximum of 25 per cent of its foreign currency earnings for debt repayment and servicing. It presently devotes about 45 per cent of the earnings to that purpose.

More contaminated olive oil seized

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, April 2, (Reuters): Authorities in north Rhine-Westphalia state said today they had seized eight more consignments of French, Italian and Spanish olive oil contaminated with a potentially dangerous chemical.

The state environment ministry said in a statement that the consignments all contained more than one milligram of the chemical tetrachlorethane (also known as perchloroethylene) per kilogram.

Tetrachlorethane is normally used as a cleaning agent.

After recent discoveries of contaminated olive oil imports in West Germany and the Netherlands, the European Economic Community said it would withdraw subsidies from olive oil containing more than one milligram of tetrachlorethane per kilo.

World Business Summary

Efforts needed to attract investment to Nigeria

LAGOS, April 2, (Opecna): Finance houses have been urged to assist the federal government in its efforts to attract foreign investment into the country.

The director of research at the Central Bank of Nigeria, Nathaniel Ogburn, said in a lecture on "rate of interest, inflation factor and foreign investments in Nigeria" that it was the responsibility of the bankers to inform prospective foreign investors of the vast opportunities and government incentives for foreign investment in the country.

Speaking at the quarterly luncheon of the banking and finance houses trade group of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he noted that a lot of responsibilities rested on bankers because of their vital roles not only in facilitating new investment flows but also in servicing existing ones.

Ogburn stressed the need for improvement in foreign investment opportunities in the country, saying that further simplification of procedure for repatriating capital and dividends and the provision of additional incentives would attract foreign investment needed for the growth and development of the economy.

He noted that the structural adjustment programme and the policy orientation of the government had brought about minimal fiscal control by government and the provision of infrastructural facilities.

He, however, stressed that continuity of government policies and social and political stability were necessary for attracting significant foreign investment flows.

He said that the introduction of debt-equity conversion and non-voting equity shares into the system would enhance the internationalisation of Nigeria's security market and encourage foreign capital inflows.

Provision of reliable public utility infrastructure would also help to reduce overhead cost and encourage increased investment inflow, he said.

Ogburn observed that contrary to the classical economists' assumption that international investments would always move to poor capital-deficient countries, "they nowadays tend to flow more to rich developed economies where facilities already exist and the investment climate is brighter."

Thatcher non-committal on Turkey's EEC application

ISTANBUL, April 2, (Reuters): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in an interview published today, declined to say whether Britain would back Turkey's application to join the European Economic Community. Thatcher, who next week makes the first visit to Turkey by a British Prime Minister since Winston Churchill in World War II, told Anatolian News Agency the application would go through the legal procedures. She did not directly answer the agency's question whether Turkey, a member of the North Atlantic alliance, could hope for British support.

"We wish to see the development of closer ties through full utilisation of opportunities provided by the (1964 Turkish) association agreement with the EEC," she said.

Thatcher said Turkey was an important ally for Britain and for the Western alliance.

"Turkey is no doubt a part of Europe... Turkey is also definitely an important member of Nato... a vital part of Western security," she said. Britain was ready to help to modernise the Turkish armed forces and transfer military technology, she said.

"In principle, finance at suitable conditions is available for military and civilian bids," she said. Thatcher said she would be pleased if a contract to build a third bridge over the Bosphorus was granted to a British company, a subsidiary of Trafalgar House.

Britain has offered a \$63 million grant to make the bid by a British-Turkish consortium more competitive, but it is still \$15 million more expensive than a bid by Turkey's STFA construction group.

Thatcher added that she would no doubt discuss the problem of divided Cyprus with Prime Minister Turgut Ozal during her April 6-8 visit.

Group of 77 warns against decrease in energy research

UNITED NATIONS, April 2, (Opecna): The Group of 77 told the UN committee on the development of new and renewable sources of energy here that a decrease in developed countries of research and development on new energy sources threatened "the common energy future". Tunisian ambassador Ahmed Ghezal, speaking on behalf of the group, said the per capita energy consumption of developing countries was about 10 per cent of that of the developed nations.

Local coal and gas energy resources could be utilised, but new and renewable sources of energy were often the only ones available in developing countries, he added. He said the group was concerned at the slow progress in implementing the Nairobi programme of action and urged that efforts be redoubled in the mobilisation of the resources.

United States delegate Harry Cahill told the committee that renewable energy sources constituted about nine per cent of energy use, with the figure anticipated to rise to around 12 per cent over the next two decades.

He said while governments were proving useful in the development of new and renewable sources, activities in the private sector were "extremely helpful" as the energy field was "very capital intensive." Japanese delegate Shoji Ogawa said the development of new energy-related technology was "very important" to his country which was heavily dependent on imports for the supply of energy sources.

He said the "sunshine project" had been initiated to secure balanced sources of energy as well as to harmonise energy utilisation with the need to protect the environment. Large-scale test plants were being developed. High priority was given to the promotion of three projects — solar photovoltaic power generation, coal liquefaction and gasification, and extraction of geothermal energy. Indian delegate Maheshwar Dayal said it would be a serious error to consider the energy crisis only in terms of oil or its temporary cost fluctuations, particularly in developing countries.

American sugar producers to increase plantings

WASHINGTON, April 2, (AP): US sugar beet growers plan to increase their plantings, and a trade association says the action may bring about another reduction in sugar imports. The US Department of Agriculture reported that a March survey indicated that sugar beet growers intend to plant 1.29 million acres (537,000 hectares) in 1988, an increase of 1.6 per cent. "If sugarcane growers in Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana and Texas follow suit, higher domestic sugar production would force the fifth consecutive reduction in US sugar import quotas," the Sweeteners Users Association said in a statement.

Calculation of quotas is mandated by existing US law. Legislators from urban areas have put forward a plan to cut the US price and increase imports, saying price support for US sugar benefits only 10,000 growers and costs US consumers \$3 billion a year. They have had little response from other members of Congress sympathetic to farm interests. Last month the Agriculture Department raised its estimate of world production for the 1987-88 season by 1 per cent to 101.9 million metric tons, 900,000 tons less than last season's crop.

The Sweeteners Users Association said US sugar beet farmers last year indicated that they planned a 1.3 per cent increase in acreage but actually planted 3.1 per cent more, resulting in a record US output of nearly 4 million tons. Partly because of the high price of beet and cane sugar, sweeteners made from corn and other products have been taking a larger share of the US market. Consumption of sugar has been declining.

Iran import collapse hits Turkish Black Sea ports

TRABZON, Turkey, April 2, (Reuters): Newly-built docks lie idle and truck traffic has dried up along the ancient trade route from Turkey's Black Sea coast to Iran.

Iran's purchases through Turkey have plummeted 89 per cent since 1984, bringing transit traffic to Iran down to just 308,000 tonnes in 1987, Turkey's International Transport Association said.

Worst hit are the Black Sea ports of Trabzon — ancient Trebizond — Hopa and Samsun, which used to handle two-thirds of transit traffic to Iran and a much smaller amount to Iraq.

"Everyone has a truck, nobody has anything to transport," said Tayfun Sezeroglu, president of Trabzon's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Trucks loaded just 31,000 tonnes of goods at Trabzon in 1987 compared to 717,000 tonnes in

1984, leaving a new World Bank-financed container port to await better days.

A lone Iran-flag ship in the easternmost port of Hopa unloaded 40,000 tonnes of Canadian wheat for Iran last week, but such shipments are increasingly rare.

Problem

Rates to transport the wheat to Iran's northeastern city of Tabriz are half those of five years ago in real terms and trucking agencies mill with unemployed truckers.

The small port close to the Soviet border is almost totally reliant on transit. Its transit shipments fell from 587,000 tonnes in 1984 to only 82,000 tonnes in 1987.

"It's a problem for the whole Black Sea coast," said Bahaettin Bayrak, a dealer in truck spare parts and president of Hopa's Chamber of Commerce.

Figures for 1987 are not available for the Western Black Sea port of Samsun, but officials say 1984's 508,000 tonnes of transit goods, mainly for Iran, had all but dried up.

The Hopa-Erzurum-Iran road — part of the old silk route used since the dawn of commerce in the region — is preferred because passes are rarely closed by snow.

A small convoy of 15-tonne trucks laden with cable for Iran laboured up through dramatic gorges, but once-crowded roadside cafes now only sell their tea to local motorists.

Costs

Trabzon and Hopa dropped their handling costs 25 per cent late last year to lure business back, but officials said they believed Iran's economic problems were the main reason.

Iraq is now demanding similar concessions for its transit routes

through the southeastern ports of Mersin and Iskenderun, maritime sources said.

Another factor was a new route through the Soviet Union and at least one Iranian ship unloaded at the nearby Soviet port of Batum last week, Hopa businessmen said.

They said the Soviet rail route to Iran was rarely used before, but Batum had started competing in the wake of the improvement in Iran-Soviet relations since 1985.

Mainly due to transit losses, tonnage handled by Trabzon, Hopa and Samsun — which take a 10th of Turkey's port traffic — fell by 30 per cent from 1984 to 3,519,000 tonnes in 1987.

The Istanbul-based International Transport Association said that in the same period Iran's imports direct from Turkey more than halved, falling to 432,000 tonnes last year.

Alshall stock price indices

Share prices turn mixed

ALSHALL Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 37.21 points with a decrease of 0.40 points from last week's average. Alshall index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 47.34 points with a decrease of 0.80 points for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 11.96 million shares at a daily average of 2.39 million shares with a decrease of 56.3 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 5.49 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 27.67 million shares at a daily average of 5.53 million shares with an increase of 1.8 per cent over last week's daily average of 5.43 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD 3.557 million shares at a daily average of KD 0.711 million, a decrease of 35.4 per cent from last week's daily average of KD 1.1 million.

The value of Gulf traded shares was KD 0.845 million at a daily average of KD 0.169 million a decrease of 6.6 per cent from last week's daily average of KD 0.181 million.

The market performance was weak especially for Kuwaiti shares as it lost all the gains which it made during the previous week, and by this it resumed the declining trend which started since the beginning of the year.

For Kuwaiti shares the Banking Sector ranked first at 38.4 per cent of total trading of which National Bank of Kuwait had 37.4 per cent, the Gulf Bank 18.7 per cent and the Commercial Bank 17.2 per cent. The Real Estate Sector ranked second at 27.8 per cent of which United Realty had 94 per cent and each of National Real Estate and Kuwait Projects had 3 per cent.

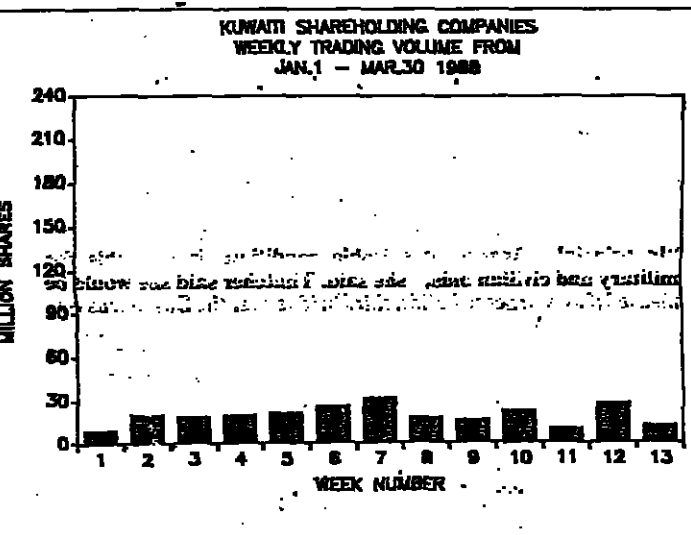
The Services Sector ranked third at 23.3 per cent of which Mobile Telephone Systems had 41 per cent, Kuwaiti Commercial Markets 40 per cent and Kuwait Warehousing Company 8.6 per cent.

For Gulf shares the Other Companies Sector came first at 69.3 per cent of total trading with Ras Al Khaima White Cement having 41 per cent of total Gulf shares market trading, followed by Bahrain International Bank at 19 per cent and Sharjah Cement at 14 per cent.

An important remark on trading this year is that the dealers are fully discounting cash and stock dividend from market trading prices. Previously the decrease in prices after dividend used to be less than the amount of dividend. The present market development might be explained by a less optimistic view of the market by the traders related to their previous personal experience.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 30/03/88	Wednesday 23/03/88	Change points
Banking Sector			
Kuwait National Bank	88.27	89.28	-1.01
The Gulf Bank	29.35	29.77	-0.42
The Commercial Bank	21.43	21.60	-0.17
Al Ahli Bank	27.39	29.32	-1.92
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	26.31	27.63	-1.32
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	31.75	31.75	—
Burgan Bank	24.58	24.78	-0.20
Kuwait Finance House	63.55	63.55	—
Sector Index	39.53	40.22	-0.69
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	31.43	31.43	—

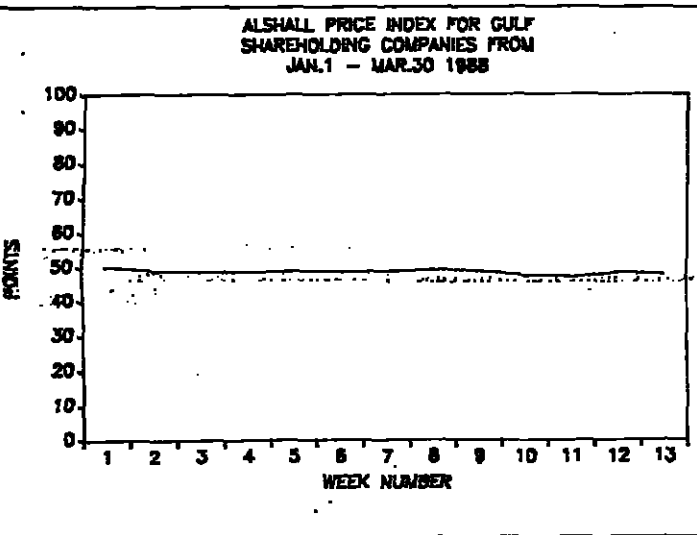


Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	27.84	27.84	—
Inv. Pearl Kuwait	82.54	84.13	-1.59
IFA	75.00	75.00	—
Commercial Facilities Sector Index	93.75	97.73	-3.98
Insurance Sector	39.50	39.83	-0.33
Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	37.51	37.51	—
Gulf Insurance Co.	28.46	28.46	—
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.	49.09	48.73	-3.64
Warba Insurance Co.	73.88	73.88	—
Sector Index	38.33	38.92	-0.59
Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	30.59	30.59	—
United Realty	13.18	13.18	—
National Real Estate	45.39	45.39	—
Sector Index	22.98	22.99	—
Industrial Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	16.22	16.22	—
Refrigeration Indust.	80.51	80.51	—
Gulf Cables	99.76	98.73	1.03
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	54.22	56.00	-1.78
Sector Index	31.50	31.47	0.03
Services Sector			
Kuwait Computer Co.	205.20	205.20	—
Kuwait Cinema Co.	9.04	9.42	-0.38
Public Warehousing Co.	75.76	71.72	4.04
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	40.95	40.95	—
Mobile Telephone Syst.	338.10	342.86	-4.76
Sector Index	63.29	63.16	0.13
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	49.63	48.82	0.81
United Fisheries	10.34	10.34	—
Kuwait United Poultry	87.28	87.28	—
Kuwait Food Co.	73.56	68.97	4.60
Sector Index	44.30	43.21	1.09
Overall Index	37.21	37.61	-0.40

Gulf shareholding companies index

	Wednesday 30/03/88	Wednesday 23/03/88	Change points
Financial Companies			
First Gulf Bank	163.16	163.16	—
United Gulf Bank	34.48	34.48	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	93.79	92.41	1.38
Bahrain M. East Bank	89.22	90.17	-0.95
Gulf Investments Co.	61.03	61.76	-0.74
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	76.19	77.92	-1.73
Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro.	66.49	71.13	-4.64
Arabian Gen. Inv. (Shuaa)	59.09	60.61	-1.52
Sector Index	63.20	64.31	-0.12
Other Companies			
Gulf Cement (fully paid)	12.83	12.83	—
Sharjah Cement	10.50	10.50	—
Fujairah Cement	10.53	11.18	-0.66
Ras Al Khaima W. Cement	22.78	22.78	—
Gulf Medical Projects	18.21	18.21	—
Sector Index	14.70	14.82	-0.12
Overall Index	47.54	48.34	-0.80

Base Period 31/12/1983.



Markets poised to recover

Gold hit by inflation threat

METALS analyst William Siedenburg receives hundreds of prospects on gold companies and gold mining techniques.

"I get so many papers describing gold mining techniques," says the Smith Barney, Harris Upham & Co. analyst, with a laugh. "I fill my wastebasket daily with stuff on gold."

These papers, at least for now, provide Siedenburg with a diversion from otherwise quiet metals markets, when he's not studying gold-producing companies.

The prices of gold, silver, and platinum have dropped recently, for a handful of reasons. With gold, too much supply has come on the market in the last two months.

In the case of platinum, the political situation in South Africa has been relatively calm. South Africa produces roughly 60 per cent of the world's platinum supply.

"The gold market peaked in December," hitting \$500 an ounce, observes Alan Posnick, a senior vice-president at MTB Banking Corporation, international foreign-exchange dealers in New York. "There's not a lot going on. There are overwhelmingly bearish sentiments for gold. It's dull."

Posnick says gold exporters expect one of two price scenarios in the next few months. Either gold will drop to about \$350 an ounce, or the market has hit its bottom at \$420 and will climb.

Dropped

Gold prices, traditionally a barometer of inflation expectations, have been affected by a halt in the dollar's slide, low oil and energy prices, and little threat of inflation, Posnick says. "Inflation is the biggest concern," he explains. "Inflation will return eventually, and then you'll see a much stronger interest in precious metals."

Investment advisers usually recommend that precious metals make up from 5 to 10 per cent of an investor's portfolio as a hedge against inflation.

The price of gold dropped in the last two months or so because

of a tremendous addition to the supply, which was too great for the market to absorb. Australian and American gold producers "sold forward," selling gold that has not yet been produced, to hedge against falling prices.

They locked in a profit by selling their gold in the high \$400s. Lately, gold has been selling in the \$430-to-\$445 range.

"The forward selling has had its major negative influence," says Jeffrey Nichols, president of American Precious Metals Advisors Inc. in New York, "because the gold produced later in the year has already been sold, so it won't affect the price."

He estimates that aggressive forward selling added 1.8 million ounces to the supply. The annual supply from all sources is between 60 million and 65 million ounces, he said.

Also, Newmont Mining Corporation said last month that it borrowed one million ounces of gold, which it then sold to pay debts taken on to fend off a hostile takeover attempt.

Prices

A third factor affecting gold prices was the gold the Soviet Union and Peru put on the market. In the case of the Soviet gold, Nichols says it was seasonal selling, which has occurred for the last two years.

The tremendous supply wouldn't hold the price up, particularly after the stock market plunge, says John Norris, of Citibank's precious-metals centre. He says the gold market appears to be stabilising.

"But is it a correction in the bull market or the start of the bear market? These days nothing is certain, but there doesn't appear to be any big change in the economy coming six months from now," he says. "All the factors point to a fairly stable market." He predicts gold will trade in the \$430-to-\$440 range in the short run.

Nichols thinks the markets have probably seen the low prices. "The markets are poised to recover," he says.

"The optimism about the

growth in the equity markets was a bit overdone, and we're moving to a more realistic picture, which is mildly positive for gold," he says. Gold might reach its recent high of \$500 later this year.

Major activity in gold buying is now occurring in Asia. "The area is experiencing a tremendous surge. It's really astonishing," Nichols observes.

In February Japan imported 40 tons of gold; in January it had imported 10 tons. In 1987 the monthly average was 19 tons.

Supply

Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore have also been aggressively buying, expressing what Nichols says is a cultural affinity for gold. "They are attracted by the low prices, they have loads of money and high savings rates, and prices won't go any lower."

The prospects for silver and platinum, considered industrial metals, remain flat as well, says Siedenburg of Smith Barney. These two metals took a particularly heavy beating after October's market collapse, because of concerns there might be a recession.

In such a case, demand for industrial metals would drop. Silver is selling at about \$6.25 an ounce.

Silver benefits from a strong exporting economy, says Norris of Citibank, because of its industrial importance.

Function

"People are keying to the trade deficit numbers, or at least an improvement in exports, which is important for gold and silver," he says. "The improvement seems to be a trend." He expects silver in the near term to sell between \$6.25 and \$6.40.

"There's too much silver around now, and in the case of platinum, it's pretty much a function of what goes on in South Africa," Siedenburg adds. Platinum is a critical material that cannot be substituted; it is used in catalytic converters in autos, among other things.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Kuwaiti team arrives in Oman

MUSCAT, April 2, (Kuna): Kuwait's Finance Minister, Jassem Al-Khorafi and his accompanying delegation arrived here today to participate in the annual meeting of heads of Arab financial institutions and central banks opening here tomorrow.

According to Oman News Agency, 16 Arab countries will be represented at the conference by their finance ministers.

The financial institutions include the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Arab Investment Organisation, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Organisation for Investment and Agricultural Development.

KD deposit rates subside

KUWAITI dinar deposit rates fell back yesterday in quiet trading after short dates jumped dramatically on Thursday, dealers said.

Spot-next and tomorrow-next traded early in the day at four and five per cent and were later offered at three per cent from 6-1/2, 5-1/2 per cent levels.

Overnight, which shot up to 30 per cent on Thursday, settled back to four per cent levels as banks apparently filled a sudden demand for dinars on the foreign exchange market.

Dealers

The Central Bank said it would make an eighth three-month treasury bill issue for 70 million dinars on April 6 which dealers said would tighten liquidity once more.

The fixed periods were quiet with few or no bids at 5-3/4, 1/4 per cent for the one through 12-month periods, close to Thursday levels.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar exchange rate slightly firmer to 0.27258/68 to the dollar from Thursday's 0.27278/88. Commercial banks quoted spot rates of around 0.27263/73.

GCC bank chiefs review monetary developments

GOVERNORS of central banks and national monetary agencies in the Gulf Cooperation Council states reviewed monetary and fiscal developments in their states during their meeting in Muscat last Wednesday, according to Kuwait Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al Sabah yesterday.

In a statement to Kuna, Sheikh Salem said that the governors also exchanged views on standardising some terms used as major economic indicators.

The officials, Sheikh Salem added, examined the effects of last October's international stock crash on the national economies of GCC states.

Sheikh Salem, who returned here on Friday pointed out that Kuwait Central Bank tabled a paper on monetary and financial developments in Kuwait.

He said the governors discussed closer fiscal coordination and controls, and examined recommendations by the control and supervision committee of the GCC for liaising control criteria.

The Kuwait official indicated that the governors reviewed the works of the GCC's banks executive training committee, and recommendations of an interim committee of balances of payments in the community and took appropriate decisions.

Sheikh Salem said the one-day meeting of GCC central bank and monetary officials was followed by an extraordinary session of Arab monetary institutions and central banks held in Muscat the next day.

He pointed out that the focus of the meeting was a project for financing inter-Arab trade operations prepared by a technical committee of the Arab Monetary Fund.

Canada-US trade pact will stimulate N. American economy

NEW YORK, April 2, (Reuters): The Canada-US free trade agreement will strengthen the North American economy and set an example for improved trade relations throughout the world, Canadian Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney said yesterday.

"An agreement between the world's two largest trading partners is exceptionally important in multilateral terms," Mulroney told the Americas society dinner.

He said the new pact between the two countries provides a unique opportunity to combat global protectionist pressures.

"Our two countries must never turn away from an historic opportunity to improve the prosperity of the world by enhancing our relationship with one another," the prime minister said.

Mulroney and President Reagan signed the agreement in January after 16 months of negotiations aimed at knocking down remaining trade barriers between the two countries.

Cross-border trade last year was valued at about \$150 billion. Nearly 80 per cent of Canada-US trade is already free of tariffs.

The trade pact is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 1989 but still requires approval from Congress.

Mulroney said the agreement is crucial to the outcome of multilateral trade talks now underway and said the economic summit of the seven major industrialised nations in Toronto in June must make progress on reduced barriers to global trade.

"At the Toronto summit, progress must be made on economic policy coordination and on trade liberalisation," he said.

Legislators fear China not equal to onslaught on world market

BEIJING, April 2, (Reuters): China's plans to compete on world markets are being stifled by timid Communist Party officials and the low quality of the country's goods, legislators at the National People's Congress said.

The economic information newspaper today reported key complaints raised by delegates from coastal provinces — China's best exporters — at the parliament in Peking.

"Some goods are very popular in the domestic market but are not equal to the challenge of the world market," it quoted a delegate as saying.

Strategies

"We face the strategy of opening the coastal regions to the outside... but our thinking has not broken through the old, set patterns," another said.

In a major speech in January, Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang said that unleashing the energy of the 200 million people in coastal provinces onto the world market was one of the key

KUWAIT						
BANK SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-NATIONAL BANK	0.870	0.870	0.870	0.870	155000	9
-GULF BANK	0.350	0.345	0.345	0.345	250000	8
-COMMERCIAL BK	0.246	0.246	0.246	0.246	20000	1
-AHLI BANK	0.290	---	---	---	---	---
-B.K.M.E	0.300	---	---	---	---	---
-K.R.E.B.	0.390	---	---	---	---	---
-BURGAN BANK	0.248	0.248	0.248	0.248	40000	2
-K.F.HOUSE	0.475	0.475	0.475	0.470	70000	5
INVESTMENT SECTOR						
-KMT INV. CO.	0.184	---	---	---	---	---
-K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210	---	---	---	---	---
-K.I.T.C.	0.162	---	---	---	---	---
-COM.FACILITIES	0.375	---	---	---	---	---
-AHLIAH INV.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
-I.F.A.	0.102	---	---	---	---	---
-INV. PEARL KMT	0.104	---	---	---	---	---
INSURANCE SECTOR						
-KMT INSURANCE	0.690	---	---	---	---	---
-GULF INSURANCE	0.370	---	---	---	---	---
-AHLIAH INS. CO.	0.510	---	---	---	---	---
-MARBIA INS. CO.	0.430	0.425	0.425	0.425	20000	2
REAL EST SECTOR						
-KMT R.EST. CO.	0.240	---	---	---	---	---
-UNI R.EST. CO.	0.118	0.118	0.118	0.118	100000	3
-NAT R.EST. CO.	0.224	---	---	---	---	---
-SALHIAH R.E.	0.075	---	---	---	---	---
-KMT PROJECTS	0.087	---	---	---	---	---
-KMT R.E.I.COM	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
INDUSTRY SECTOR						
-NAT IND. CO.	0.510	---	---	---	---	---
-KMT M.P. IND.	0.295	---	---	---	---	---
-KMT CEMENT CO.	0.238	---	---	---	---	---
-REF. IND. CO.	0.385	---	---	---	---	---
-N.A.M.T.CO.	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
-GULF CABLE	0.970	---	---	---	---	---
-K.P.H.IND. CO.	0.122	---	---	---	---	---
-CONT.MARINE	0.350	---	---	---	---	---
-K.SH.REP.CO.	0.042	---	---	---	---	---
SERVICES SECTOR						
-OVERLAND TRANS	0.081	---	---	---	---	---
-K.N.C. CO.	0.190	---	---	---	---	---
-KMT HOTELS CO.	0.174	---	---	---	---	---
-P.WAREHOUSING	0.146	---	---	---	---	---
-COM.MKT.CMPX.	0.020	0.020	0.020	0.020	480000	5
-MOBILE TELE.	0.355	0.360	0.360	0.355	240000	8
-KMT COMPUTER	0.190	---	---	---	---	---
FOOD SECTOR						
-LIVESTOCK T.T.	0.244	---	---	---	---	---
-UNIT FISHRIES	0.146	---	---	---	---	---
-UNIT POULTRY	0.238	---	---	---	---	---
-KMT FOODS	0.300	---	---	---	---	---
-AGRI.FOOD PRD.	0.150	---	---	---	---	---
NON-KMT SECTOR						
-BHN.INTER.BK	0.068	---	---	---	---	---
-BHN.M.EAST.BK	0.047	---	---	---	---	---
-UNIT.GULF BK	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
-COAST INVEST.	0.088	---	---	---	---	---
-A.G.INV.CORP	0.039	---	---	---	---	---
-FIRST.GULF BK	0.620	---	---	---	---	---
-S.K.I.G.	0.086	0.081	0.081	0.081	56939	1
KUWAIT STOCK EXCHANGE						
COMPANIES LISTED ON THE PARALLEL MARKET						
FINANCIAL SECTOR	P.CLS	LT	HIGH	LOW	VOL	TRADE
-PEARL INV.CO.	0.098	---	---	---	---	---
-GULF INV.CO.	0.041	---	---	---	---	---
-GULF INTL INS	0.009	---	---	---	---	---
-ARAB INT.CO.	0.055	---	---	---	---	---
-SHARJAH INS	0.000	---	---	---	---	---
-GULF UNION INS	0.055	---	---	---	---	---
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR						
B-GULF MEDICAL	0.016	---	---	---	---	---
C-R.K.WHITE CMNT	0.020	---	---	---	---	---
D-AJMAN CEMENT	0.007	---	---	---	---	---
E-FUJAIRAH CENT	0.008	---	---	---	---	---
F-SHARJAH CEMENT	0.010	---	---	---	---	---
G-D.F.CEMENT	0.015	---	---	---	---	---
H-UMM ALQAYN	0.019	---	---	---	---	---

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INDIAN driver with light duty driving licence seeks part time employment anytime after 3pm. Address: Mr. Aqeel Mendes, P.O. Box 3679, Safat, 13037, Kuwait. (AT1-41644-3)

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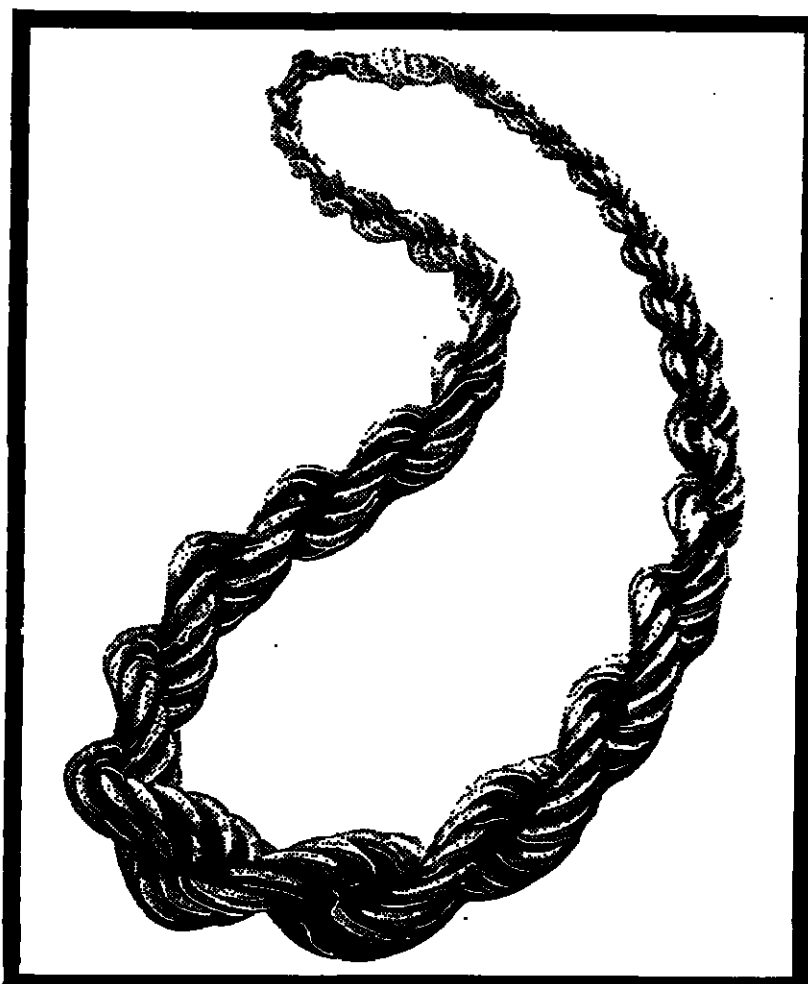
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TOP-SEEDED SWEDE TO MEET BECKER

Edberg overcomes Noah for final



Edberg: pleased with his play

DALLAS, April 2, (Reuters): Top-seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden put on an impressive display of serve-and-volley tennis yesterday to defeat Yannick Noah of France 6-2 4-6 6-3 6-3 and advance to the finals of the \$500,000 World Championship Tennis finals.

Edberg, who has now beaten Noah all six times they have played, will face second-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany in the final. Becker defeated American Brad Gilbert 6-4 6-2 6-1 in the first semifinal played on Thursday night.

Pleased
Edberg, who dropped his serve only once in the match, said he was pleased with his play but added that he would have to be more consistent from the baseline to beat Becker.

"I think I played rather well. My serve was especially good the whole match," Edberg said. "Still, I think I have to play much better to beat Becker. I was covering the court better than in my previous match, but I have to play better from the back-

Edberg, ranked third in the world, served exceptionally well, dropping only six points on his serve in the first set. The Swede broke Noah in the sixth game with a backhand passing shot and again to win the set in the eighth game when Noah netted an easy volley.

Noah lifted his first-serve percentage in the second set. In his first three service games, Noah dropped only two points on his serve. In the ninth game at 4-4, Noah scored his first service break when Edberg could not handle a backhand that skipped off the tape.

Noah, eighth in the world, fought off five break points by attacking the net constantly. Noah finally won his serve, and with it the set, on his third set point with a service winner.

Noah dropped his serve once in the fourth set, in the sixth game when he hit a volley that sailed long. While Noah continued to land his first serves, he could not break Edberg, who closed out the set with a sharply-angled volley winner in the ninth game.

Edberg maintained his high

level of serving in the fourth set, losing just six points in five games. The Swede scored the crucial break in the seventh game and belted an ace and three service winners to win the next game. He broke again in the ninth game to win the match.

"His serve bothered me, especially to my backhand," Noah said. "He always serves well against me. He was always ahead on his serve and that made it tough to break him."

Appearance
Edberg had made the WCT semifinals three times without reaching the final. Becker advanced to the final two years ago only to lose to Anders Jarryd. Becker has won seven of his 11 matches against Edberg.

Noah won \$50,000 for his semifinal appearance, while this evening's winner will earn \$200,000 and the loser will get \$100,000.

Noah planned to fly home to France today to prepare for a Davis Cup appearance against Australia next week, but said he felt the championship match would be one worth seeing.



Evert: crushed Hanika.

Sanchez stuns Maleeva in Florida tournament

LARGO, Fla., April 2, (Reuters): Unseeded 16-year-old Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez upset fifth-seeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-2 6-2 yesterday to advance to the semifinals of the \$200,000 Florida Open tennis championship.

Maleeva held serve only twice in the match, both times in the first set.

"This is a very important victory for me," Sanchez said. "It shows improvement in my ability and in my mind I know now that I can play any of the top 10 players."

Maleeva, however, was not ready to concede that her young opponent had played particularly well.

"I don't think that she played all that special. I just made a lot of mistakes," Maleeva said. "American Hales Cioffi, also unseeded, eliminated 18-year-old Wilfrud Probst of West Germany 7-5 6-2."

Cioffi, who battled back from 2-5 in the first set, saved six match points to take the first set. Probst replied by breaking

Cioffi's serve in the fourth game of the second set. She held serve only once, but still put up a fight with excellent cross-court passing shots.

Top-seeded American Chris Evert took just 65 minutes to eliminate sixth-seeded Sylvia Hanika of West Germany 6-1 6-0, blasting a series of winners down the line.

"I think she played unbelievably tonight," said Hanika, who beat Evert the last time they met last November. "From the first point she looked sharp. She came up with a passing shot for a clean winner each time."

"When I lose to someone I look forward to playing them," Evert said. "I think mentally Hanika is really tough. I had a little more incentive this time. When she came in, I had the shot. My passing shots were just really on tonight."

Evert was to play Cioffi today. "I've never played her. It can always be dangerous. But it can be a challenge because you don't know what to expect," Evert said.

13 Indian teams to vie for Jimmy Memorial Trophy

THIRINDIAN volleyball teams will vie for the Jimmy Memorial Trophy, sponsored by a Malayalam publication and organised by the Kuwait Malayalam Samajam, from Friday, April 8.

It was decided at the draws held last week that the opening match of the tournament would be between Sports Lovers Club and Flying Arrows Sporting Centre at 6.30 am at a ground located behind the Fahadhi Cinema. The opening match will be followed by a game between Pico and Al Othman Catering at 7.30 am.

Al Jahili Food Centre, Royal Sporting and Fernandez Brothers got byes to qualify direct for the quarterfinals. A total of 12 matches will be played in this tournament but there will be games during the holy month of Ramadan.

Fixtures

First round: April 8: Sports Lovers Club Vs. Flying Arrows Sporting Centre, 6.30 am; Pico Vs. Al Othman Catering, 7.30 am.

April 15: Kerala Sports Club 'A' Team Vs. Camy Sports Club, 6.30 am; Kerala Sports Club 'B' Team Vs. Kremenec, 7.30 am.

May 20: Vandana Sports Vs. Young School Boys, 6.30 am.

Quarterfinals: May 20: Al Jahili Food Centre Vs. Winner of Sports Lovers Club and Flying Arrows 7.30 am; May 27: Royal Sporting Vs. Winner of Pico and Al Othman Catering, 6.30 am; Fernandez Brothers Vs. Winner of Kerala Sports Club 'A' Team and Camy Sports Club, 7.30 am.

June 3: winner of Kerala Sports Club 'B' Team and Kremenec Vs. winner of Vandana Sports and Young School Boys, 6.30 am.

Semifinals: June 10, 6.30 and 7.30 am.

Finals: June 17, 7.30 am.

Ljubojevic scores only win in Swift chess

BRUSSELS, Belgium, April 2, (AP): Yugoslav Ljubomir Ljubojevic beat Soviet Andrei Sokolov to take the early lead in the \$104,000 Swift chess tournament, the first stage in the two-year World Cup Grand Prix competition.

Going into today's second round, defending co-champion Ljubojevic was already alone in the lead as seven other first-round matches ended in a draw while the game between US player Yasser Seirawan and Hungarian Lajos Portisch was adjourned.

Former world champion Anatoly Karpov drew with fellow Soviet Valeri Salov while the world's third-ranked player, Dutchman Jan Timman, failed to get a decision against Yugoslav Predrag Nikolic.

The 18 players not only vie for the \$20,000 first prize but also for the early lead in the \$600,000 World Cup Grand Prix competition.

The Swift event is the first of six selected tournaments over the next two years that will decide the world's top tournament player.

Chang and Svensson score upsets

HOUSTON, April 2, (AP): Sixteen-year-old Michael Chang of the United States scored another easy victory yesterday, beating hometown favourite Sammy Giammalva 6-4, 6-0 in the \$200,000 River Oaks International tennis tournament.

Chang's opponent in this evening's semifinals was to be seventh-seeded Peter Svensson of Sweden, who upset top-seeded Kent Carlsson 6-4, 6-3.

Chang, who eliminated fourth-seeded David Pate 6-3 6-0, broke Giammalva in the final game of an error-filled first set, marking the fourth consecutive service break of the match.

Deuces
Chang then jumped to a 5-0 lead in the second set and finally ended the match at the fifth match point in the lengthy sixth game with a backhand cross-court winner.

The final game went to 11 deuces before Chang ended it.

"I was just having fun in that last game," Chang said. "I wasn't worried about him coming back or anything."

Chang also said he was unconcerned about the series of service losses in the first set.

"In juniors, losing your serve is no big deal so I don't keep track



Leconte: crushed Dickson

of that," Chang said. "But I'm going to have to concentrate in the pros on holding my serve."

Giammalva played his best tennis in the final game.

"I knew the odds were pretty

slim but I wanted to win that game," Giammalva said. "I thought if I could win that game, he might get a little tight."

Svensson, ranked 24th in the world, took advantage of a lack

of conditioning by Carlsson, who has been sidelined seven months with a knee injury.

"The only way to play Kent is to go for it quickly," Svensson said. "If you wait, Kent will get control and it's over. I have to be 100 per cent to win."

Carlsson, ranked 13th in the world, said "I did what I could but he was just too good. I felt good in my body but by opponent was better, that was the problem."

Sixth-seeded Henri Leconte of France earned a semifinal spot with a 6-2, 6-0 victory over hobbled Mark Dickson of the US.

Leconte overpowered Dickson with a consistent serve, losing only six points on his serve in the match.

Consistent

"I started getting confidence in my serve last night (Thursday)," Leconte said. "I was very consistent today, not making mistakes. I made him run a lot."

Leconte's opponent in the semifinals will be eighth-seeded Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina who rallied for a 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Sweden's Peter Lundgren.

Finals are scheduled tomorrow with the singles winner earning \$40,000.

Holyfield eyes bigger prize

ATLANTA, April 2, (AP): Evander Holyfield takes on Carlos DeLeon next week in an attempt to unify boxing's cruiserweight title. After that, Holyfield has his eyes on a bigger prize — the heavyweight division.

"Just two weeks ago, I weighed as much as 202 pounds and I was able to carry that weight around without hurting my effectiveness in the ring," Holyfield said this week while working out in Atlanta. "Today, I'm down to 190 pounds for the (DeLeon) fight."

"We're looking to have a heavyweight fight in July."

Fiji advance in Rugby Sevens

New Zealand and Australia win

SYDNEY, Australia, April 2, (AP): Top seeds New Zealand and Australia each scored three straight victories today in the qualifying rounds of the Australian bicentennial international seven-a-side Rugby Union tournament at Concord Oval.

While the two favourites stayed on course for a repeat of their meeting in last weekend's Hong Kong Sevens, the United States and Canada were among the surprise qualifiers for tomorrow's quarterfinals.

Defending champion Aus-

tralia, which defeated New Zealand 13-12 in Hong Kong, scored three most emphatic victories, downing Spain 30-6, Scotland 16-4 and Japan 46-0. It scored 16 tries in the process.

Clash

New Zealand thundered to an opening 36-0 triumph over Hong Kong, then downed Wales 26-6 and Western Samoa 20-0, also scoring 16 tries.

Third-seeded Fiji was the only other nation to progress to the last eight with a perfect record. The pacy and powerful Pacific Islanders beat the Netherlands

38-0, Argentina 10-4 and the United States 26-4.

In the quarterfinals Australia will take on Canada, New Zealand will play the United States, Fiji will clash with Wales and Tonga will meet Scotland.

Australia's Fijian-born Acura Niuqila was the top try scorer of the qualifying round with six tries, while Australian David Campese and Canada's Mark Wyatt each scored four.

The pace, hastened by driving rain, produced a series of upsets with three of the seeded teams — France, Argentina and South Korea eliminated.

Turbo fault costs Kankkunen lead in Safari

NAIROBI, April 2, (Reuters): A turbo fault cost world champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland leadership of the Safari Rally today.

Kankkunen, in first place since yesterday evening, wasted 23 minutes fitting a new turbocharger on his Toyota Supra to replace the one which failed on a 20-km dash up the Elgeyo Marakwet escarpment in the northwest of the country.

Original

Miki Biasion of Italy, who had been gaining precious minutes throughout the afternoon, raced past in his Lancia Delta and Kenyan Mike Kirkland, at the wheel of a Nissan 200SX, followed suit some four minutes behind the new leader. Kankkunen dropped to third.

Two more cars dropped out this afternoon, leaving only 20 running from an original field of 54. The leaders have now covered 2,700-km of the 4,220-km event that ends on Monday.

Two Swedes, Per Eklund in a Nissan and Kenneth Eriksson in



Biasion (left) and Per Eklund in action on the first day of the rally.

a Toyota, were fourth and fifth with 12 minutes between them.

The only all-female crew, Britons Lynda Morgan and co-driver Lynn Marote in a private Toyota, were running 17th at Marigat in the Lake Baringo area.

Drivers have a break of up to eight hours before leaving at midnight on the 700-km section to the central town of Nakuru.

Tomorrow's route takes them past Mount Elgon, an extinct volcano straddling the Kenya-Uganda border, through tea estates in the Nandi Hills and along twisting roads in the Mau Forest.

Swede Bjorn Waldegard, winner of the event in 1977, 1984 and 1986, was lagging in eighth place today after mechanical trouble on the road to Lake



(Reuters wirephotos)

Baringo.

The organisers said he had two punctures and mechanics were replacing the right rear hub and repairing damage to the back of his Toyota Supra.

Leaders at Eldoret, 45th of 80 times controls:
1. Miki Biasion (Italy), Lancia Delta, one hour 43 minutes, eight seconds.
2. Mike Kirkland (Kenya), Nissan 200SX, 1:47:48.
3. Juha Kankkunen (Finland), Toyota

Supra, 1:53:36.
4. Per Eklund (Sweden), Nissan 200SX, 2:02:09.
5. Kenneth Eriksson (Sweden), Toyota Supra, 2:14:18.
6. Ian Duncan (Kenya), Subaru 4WD Turbo, 2:21:07.
7. Rudolf Stohr (Austria), Audi Quattro, 2:59:31.

8. Bjorn Waldegard (Sweden), Toyota Supra, 3:18:38.
9. Erwin Weber (West Germany), Volkswagen Golf GTI, 3:50:11.
10. Possum Bourne (New Zealand), Subaru 4WD Turbo, 3:55:21.

Final standings

	W	D	L
AMA	6	0	2
Magcobar	5	1	2
Getty	3	1	3
SFI	3	0	4
Computhink	3	0	5
SF Lewis	1	0	7
Teelall	1	0	7
UAS	7	0	1
Al Julalah	6	0	2
M & M's	2	0	6
BTC	1	0	7

Cup diving

EDINBURGH, Scotland, April 2, (AP): Holger Winkowski of East Germany upset European champion Albin Killat in the quarterfinals of the men's springboard competition at the European Cup diving tournament yesterday.

Winkowski used a strong series of dives to edge the West German 390 points to 386.09.

Hubara outlast Arrows

OLIVER Pereira produced a six-wicket haul for only 14 runs to help Hubara score a four-wicket victory over Flying Arrows on Friday.

Success for Hubara had not seemed certain as Flying Arrows raced to 88 runs off the first 10 overs. Verold with an aggressive 69 outscored his partners and only Derrick (19), Benjamin (14) and Mukesh (12) reach the double figures as no other batsman could come to grips with Pereira's bowling.

Jimmy James (three for 47) had little success with pace after dismissing Salim first ball with a delivery cutting back from outside the off-stump. He changed to spin and picked up two more wickets.

The middle and late order batsmen had no answer to Pereira and Daljit (one for 14) picked up the final wicket to dismiss Flying Arrows for 141.

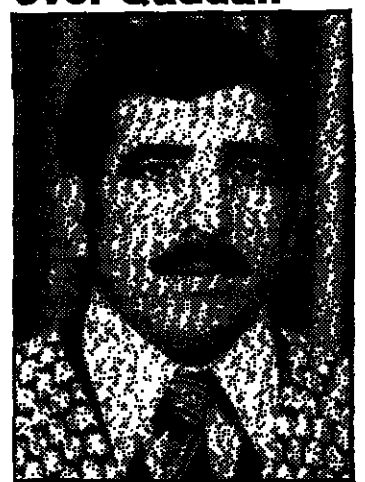
Delivery
Hubara's openers started in the usual cautious style. The score stood at 59 when Dave Talbot (26) misjudged a delivery from Benjamin and was stumped.

50 more runs were added before Mike D'Souza (9) and Craig Shipton (66) were both dismissed. Salim (four for 33) caused a few worried moments in the Hubara camp before Pereira and Daljit saw Hubara safely home.

Hubara must be disappointed with their place in this season's competition, having been champions last year. Having lost their opening batsman, Mike Dexter, and strike bowler, Andrew Hill, they have found able replacements in Dave Talbot and Jimmy James.

However, next season's side will need to recover their high standard of fielding and middle-order composure if they are to challenge for the honours.

OBCC score easy win over Qaddafi



Taj Malik: 53 runs.

OLD BOYS Cricket Club (OBCC) defeated Qaddafi Club by six wickets at the Airport-Millat ground on Friday.

Qaddafi, batting first, scored 147 in 24.3 overs. Atazque (27 not out), Arshad (28) and Nasir (14) batted well. Abdul Wahed took three wickets for OBCC while Ifkhar and Ejaz got two each. Riaz Mian and Javed Shah got one each.

Loss

OBCC were given a good start by Taj Malik who hammered 53 including seven fours. Idrees (21 not out) and Riaz Chaudhry (16 not out) saw OBCC past the required total with the loss of only four wickets.

For Qaddafi, Shahid took two wickets while Zahid and Nasir got one each.

Required Indian female executive Secretary

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Cultural Committee of the Department of English has pleasure in inviting you to the following Seminar:

- 1) Dr. Ali Mahmoud "An Idea of Teaching Drama"
- 2) Dr. Khalid Al-Mubarak "Macbeth: The Arabic Connection"

Date : Sunday, 3rd April
Time : 6:30 pm
Place : Bldg. 5, Room 312 (Opposite English Department Bldg., Shuwaikh).

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Punjab Trophy

ROYAL Club meet Social Club in the semifinals of the Punjab/Butt Trophy cricket tournament at the Airport-Millat ground on Friday at 8.00 am. Quaid-e-Millat has already qualified for the final.

W. Germany win

WEST BERLIN, April 2. (Reuters): West Germany beat Argentina 1-0 (half-time 1-0) in the third-place playoff of the four-nation soccer tournament here today. Score: Lothar Matthäus (30th min).

Darcy leads

BIARRITZ, France, April 2. (Reuters): Ireland's Eamonn Darcy took the lead in the Biarritz Open golf tournament yesterday despite forsaking the putter with which he ensured Europe retained the Ryder Cup last September.

Indian Open

CALCUTTA, April 2. (Reuters): Taiwan's Lu Chien-Soon looked poised to win the \$100,000 Indian Open golf championship when he shot to an eight-stroke lead after the third round today.

Greensboro golf

GREENSBORO, North Carolina, April 2. (Reuters): American Jeff Sluman shot a seven-under-par 65 yesterday to take a two-shot lead after 36 holes of the \$1 million Greater Greensboro Open with a two-day total of 15-under par 129.

European Cup

MILAN, Italy, April 2. (Reuters): Romania beat Italy 12-3 (half-time 6-0) in a European Cup Rugby Union international today.

Indy 500

INDIANAPOLIS, April 2. (AP): Four-time Indianapolis 500 winner A.J. Foyt returns to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for his 31st start in this year's May 29 race.

NBA games

NEW YORK, April 2. (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday (only games scheduled):

Atlanta	105	Philadelphia	93
Boston	121	Detroit	110
Washington	118	Dallas	103
San Antonio	105	L.A. Clippers	91
Chicago	116	Portland	101

Cricket match

HARARE, Zimbabwe, April 2. (AP): Sri Lanka closed at 250-9 on the first day of the three-day international cricket match with Zimbabwe's national side in Harare yesterday. Sri Lankan batsman Atilla Samarasekera scored 77 to add to several high scores against the home side.

Kuwait beat

Argentinian

soccer club

KUALA LUMPUR, April 2. (KUNA): Kuwait's Asian Cup team today beat Argentinian soccer club Deportivo Armenio 1-0 after a goalless first half in the first of the two warm-up matches at the Maybank Sports Complex in Bangi, 25km from here.

Kuwait's victory came through forward Nawaf, who headed the ball into the goal from close range about 10 minutes before the end of the game.

Nawaf entered the field 10 minutes after the second half began, in place of Salah Al-Hawari.

Present to witness this interesting match were Kuwait Football Association president Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Malaysia, Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa and Deportivo president Giragos Nkis.

Sheikh Fahd, when asked by KUNA to comment on the game said: "It is too early for me to say anything now because this is the first warm-up match."

"I would like to reserve my comments until the second warm-up match with Deportivo on Monday night."

Sheikh Fahd, however, made it clear that his team had maintained very good discipline and were fighting very hard, adding: "We work like soldiers."

Bridge

TODAY and next Sunday the Hilton Bridge Club will hold its games at the Continental Hotel at 8.00 pm.

Results of the Sheraton Ladies Bridge Club games held on Wednesday:

N/S: 1. Rita Canacini & dona Materny 2. Jamila Akel & Juliette Moshawar 3. Nahil Akel & Lolli Murthwaite E/W:

1. Margaret Maynard & Suzanne Castanhele 2. Alice Nasir & Janice Bridges 3. Suha Fozan & Irene Shabab.

Results of the Messiah Ladies Bridge Club game held on Saturday:

1. Nahil Akel & Lolli Murthwaite 2. Lynn Edwards & Pearl Leary 3. Rita Canacini & Dona Materny.

MCCLAIR SCORES THREE GOALS FOR UNITED

Forest hand Liverpool 2nd defeat of season

LONDON, April 2. (Reuters): Liverpool succeeded in baffling both the experts and opponents Nottingham Forest today when a number of self-inflicted blows resulted in their second League defeat of an otherwise triumphant season.

First, player-manager Kenny Dalglish mysteriously left England forward Peter Beardsley and Irish midfielder Ray Houghton — \$2.6 million (\$4.8 million) worth of talent — on the substitutes' bench.

And if their relegation was designed to confuse Forest, whom they meet in the semifinals of the Football Association (FA) Cup next Saturday, Dalglish's move was a complete success.

Thoughts But it also spread unease throughout the Liverpool side and all thoughts of completing their ninth championship in 13 years by taking full points from their Easter programme disappeared in a 2-1 defeat at Forest.

With Danish international Jan Molby making his first full appearance of the season, Liverpool were strangely disorganised at times and captain Alan Hansen sparked their eventual downfall by turning the ball into his own net for the Forest opener.

While Dalglish will be far from happy with Liverpool's overall performance, the damage was negligible because Manchester

United, 4-1 home winners over Derby county, remain a distant second 11 points adrift with two games more played.

Liverpool, who would have won their 17th League title had they taken full points from the visit to Forest and Monday's meeting with United, fell behind in the 24th minute after an uncharacteristic defensive muddle.

Hansen and fellow-Scott Gary Gillespie both went for the same ball and their collision resulted in the Liverpool skipper, favourite to be named England's Footballer of the Year, headed past Bruce Grobbelaar.

The Zimbabwean goalkeeper, in constant action for the first hour, was in brilliant form and highlighted a faultless display by saving a 46th-minute penalty taken by Forest manager Brian Clough's son, Nigel.

But Forest, who play a delightful brand of one-touch football, continued to carve open the Liverpool rearguard at will and England midfielder Neil Webb put his side further in front after 59 minutes.

Webb exchanged passes with Forest's exciting wing discovery Gary Crosby, before rifling a glorious right-foot shot past Grobbelaar from 20 metres.

The teenage Crosby, who was playing minor League football only four months ago, was a con-



McClair: hero of United's victory

stant torment to the Liverpool defence and it will be interesting to see how Dalglish copes with his threat in next Saturday's FA

Cup semifinal.

With Forest in complete control, Liverpool struck a defiant note when John Aldridge

reduced the deficit with a late penalty.

Scotland striker Brian McClair was the hero of Manchester United's crushing victory against Derby, scoring three goals to take his season's haul to 26.

McClair, signed from Glasgow Celtic at the start of the season, has now scored 19 times in the League and is poised to become the first United player since George Best 20 years ago to score 20 or more First Division goals in a season.

In a mixed day for the four FA Cup semifinalists, Wimbledon drew 2-2 at Southampton but the Londoners' opponents next Saturday, Luton Town, crashed 4-0 at Newcastle United.

With Brazilian striker Miranda absent with flu, Northern Ireland's teenage forward Michael O'Neill assumed the goal-scoring responsibility for Newcastle by scoring the second hat-trick of the afternoon.

Results

English Division One			
Chelsea	1	Arsenal	1
Coventry	1	Oxford	0
Manchester U	4	Derby	1
Newcastle	4	Luton	0
Norwich	2	Charlton	0
Nottingham	2	Liverpool	1
Sheff Wed	2	West Ham	1
Southampton	2	Wimbledon	2
Tottenham	0	Portsmouth	1
English Division Two			
Birmingham	1	Hull	1
Bradford	1	Barnsley	1

Crystal P	3	Bournemouth	0
Huddersfield	1	Manchester C	0
Middlesbrough	6	Sheff U	0
Millwall	2	Aston Villa	1
Reading	1	Ipswich	1
Shrewsbury	1	Leeds	0
Swindon	3	Leicester	2
West Bromwich	2	Stoke	0

English Division Three			
Barnsley	1	Nottingham	0
Brighton	2	Gillingham	0
Bristol C	2	Aldershot	0
Bury	0	York	1
Chesterfield	0	Bristol R	1
Grimsby	0	Sunderland	1
Northampton	3	Fulham	1
Port Vale	5	Doncaster	0
Preston	1	Mansfield	0
Rotherham	0	Blackpool	1
Walsall	1	Cheney	0

English Division Four			
Barnley	0	Wolves	3
Exeter	0	Cardiff	2
Harlepool	0	Peterborough	1
Leyton O	1	Cole	2
Newport	1	Carlisle	2
Scarborough	0	Scunthorpe	3
Swansea	0	Rochdale	0
Torquay	3	Stockport	0
Wrexham	3	Trafford	0

Scottish Premier Division			
Dundee U	1	Dundee	0
Dunfermline	1	Aberdeen	2
Kilmarnock	1	Celtic	2
Motherwell	0	Morton	0
Rangers	1	Hearts	2
St Mirren	0	Falkirk	4

Scottish Division One			
Clyde	3	Hamilton	1
Dumbarton	0	Airdrie	1
Forfar	0	Kilmarnock	1
Greenock	2	East Fife	1
Queen of S	1	Clydebank	1
Raith	1	Partick	2

Scottish Division Two			
Albion	3	Stirling	1
Ayr	2	Barnack	0
Elgin	2	Aberdeen	0
Greenock	2	Queen's Park	0
St Johnstone	0	Elderslie	0
Stirling Albion	2	Cowdenbeath	0
Stranraer	1	Montrose	1

Senna sets the pace in GP practice

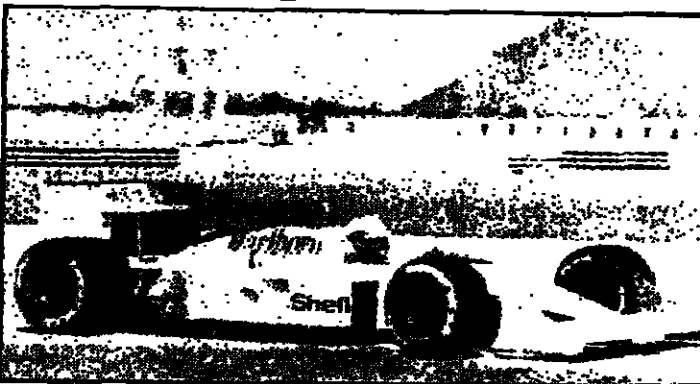
RIO DE JANEIRO, April 2. (Reuters): Brazil's Senna set the quickest time in the first official practice yesterday for tomorrow's Brazilian Grand Prix, opening event of the Formula One motor racing season.

Senna took his McLaren round the 5.031-km circuit named after his compatriot and rival Nelson Piquet in one minute 30.218 seconds, an average speed of 200.754 kph — slightly quicker than Briton Nigel Mansell who was second in a Williams with 1:30.928.

Debut

"The car is good but I'm not so excited, because I know that many cars will go faster tomorrow," Senna, who is making his debut for McLaren, told a news conference.

McLaren are one of several teams to retain turbocharged engines, which are being banned from next year. Others, like



Prost in action in yesterday's practice. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mansell's Williams team, have already switched to normally-aspirated cars.

Senna's teammate, former world champion Frenchman Alain Prost, was disappointed with fourth place in 1:31.975.

"Everything went wrong with my car. I had to use the spare for most of the session and when I

took my main car again it was not well prepared," Prost said.

In the morning's untimed practice, Prost slightly damaged the nose of his car when he hit a barrier after mounting a kerb as he approached the pits.

Italian Alessandro Nannini was a surprising third in yesterday's official session, clocking

1:31.772, in a Benetton.

"The car is in excellent shape. I'm thrilled, but not at all surprised by my performance," Nannini said.

Mansell said of his new Williams FW12: "The car is lighter than the turbos and I'm confident of having a good race on Sunday."

Lotus had a disappointing day with reigning world champion Piquet finishing eighth with 1:32.888, one place ahead of Japanese teammate Satoru Nakajima in 1:33.293.

Leading times after today's final practice: 1. Ayrton Senna (Brazil) McLaren one minute 28.096 seconds (average speed 205.989 kph); 2. Nigel Mansell (Britain) Williams 1:28.632; 3. Alain Prost (France) McLaren 1:28.782; 4. Gerhard Berger (Austria) Ferrari 1:29.026; 5. Nelson Piquet (Brazil) Lotus 1:30.087; 6. Michele Alboreto (Italy) Ferrari 1:30.114; 7. Thierry Boutsen (Belgium) Benetton 1:30.140; 8. Riccardo Patrese (Italy) Williams 1:30.439; 9. Ivan Capelli (Italy) March 1:30.529; 10. Satoru Nakajima (Japan) Lotus 1:31.280.

Oxford win University Boat Race

LONDON, April 2. (Reuters): Oxford easily beat Cambridge in the 134th University Boat Race on the River Thames today despite damage caused to their boat before the start by giant oarsman Gavin Stewart.

Stewart, who is 2.03 metres tall and weighs 103.4 kg, shattered his sliding foot-rest as the crews warmed up before the start and there was a half-hour holdup for repairs.

But once the race started there was no holding Oxford who covered the 6.8-km course on a calm, mild day in 17 minutes 35 seconds — only the eighth time in

the history of the race 18 minutes has been beaten.

Cambridge trailed in 16 seconds behind, suffering their 13th defeat in the last 15 years.

Effortlessly

The Oxford crew, at 94 kg a man the heaviest in the history of the race, ploughed effortlessly through the tidal waters of the Thames to dominate the race from the start.

It was a devastating display and a personal triumph for Oxford's American president Chris Penny who missed last year's race after taking part in a

selection mutiny.

The only drama unfolded soon after the start when Cambridge, determined to take advantage of the early bend in their favour, made a concerted effort.

They led by a quarter of a length as a fierce battle developed between the coxes — Andy Lobbenberg of Oxford and Steve Loveridge of Cambridge.

Both men were warned by umpire Mike Sweeney as the crews came dangerously close to a clash of oars.

But Oxford emerged the stronger from the exchange and soon opened up a race-winning lead.

Alcott ahead

RANCHO MIRAGE, California, April 2. (Reuters): American Amy Alcott shot a six-under par 66 yesterday to take a one-stroke lead after two rounds of the \$500,000 Dinah Shore Open golf tournament.

Alcott's 137 total was good for the lead over compatriot Colleen Walker, whose 65 was the day's best round.

Another stroke back was Marta Figueras-Dotti of Spain, who shot 70, after posting a 69 in the strong, gusty winds of opening day.

Americans Rosie Jones and Debbie Massey trail at 140.

Ireland edge England

AN Ireland XV edged out an England XV by 16 points to 14 in Kuwait Nomads' last domestic trophy fixture of the season on Friday, spoiling in the process England's hopes of a "Grand Slam".

In a tense and entertaining match under the Fintas Park floodlights, neither side was ever dominant, and the result was in doubt right up to the final whistle.

England opened the scoring with an Andy Hopkins penalty, only for Ireland to hit back with a well-worked try from Jonathan O'Brien, though there was a strong suspicion that the final pass was forward. O'Brien converted to give the Irish (sic) a 4-3 lead, but Hopkins hit back with another penalty to tie the scores at half time.

Ireland scored an early second half try through flying winger Con Barry, with the English even more unhappy about the legality of the try scoring pass.

Their riposte came swiftly with John Sanderson harassing the Irish defence into a series of errors which presented him with the touchdown opportunity and the scores were once again level.

Ireland regained the lead with a Steve Hill try which Adams converted, and though England scored the final try through Tony Sole, they could not get the impetus to head the Irish.

John McDevitt received the M.F. Kent Cup for the fourth successive season and in an entertaining post match speech pledged to make it five wins next season.

Jansher reaches semifinals

MONACO, April 2. (Reuters): World champion Jansher Khan took only 48 minutes on Friday to beat Australian eighth-seed Ross Thorne 9-5 9-1 9-1 in the quarterfinals of the Monaco Open squash tournament.

The world champion said a trip home had revived him since he lost to his great rival Jahangir Khan in the final of the French Open in Paris on March 13.

Monaco title-holder Chris Robertson lost to fellow-Australian Chris Dittmar, whose 9-2 4-9 9-2 victory avenged a defeat by his compatriot in Spain last month.

New Zealand's Ross Norman also went through to the semifinals, beating Umar Hyatt Khan 9-2 9-3 9-10 9-1.

Norman will now play Jansher, who destroyed the unseeded Brett Martin of Australia 9-0 9-3 9-0 in 18 minutes with the last game lasting only three minutes.

LATE NEWS

Jansher Khan (Pakistan) beat Chris Dittmar (Australia) 9-2 9-3 9-10 9-1.

Jahangir Khan (Pakistan) beat Ross Norman (New Zealand) 9-2 9-3 9-10 9-1.

Sharjah may host third Asia Cup

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, April 2. (AP): The southern Gulf emirate of Sharjah is likely to be the venue for cricket's third Asia Cup, which was originally scheduled to be held in Bangladesh in February 1988, sports officials said here today.

Dhaka was not able to host the tournament due to political disturbances and national elections.

Cricketers' Benefit Fund Series, who hosted the inaugural Asia Cup at Sharjah in 1984, has shown interest in hosting the competition in October if Bangladesh is unable to find suitable dates before the year ends, said the sources who are in close contact with CBFS.

CBFS is likely to have the backing of Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka in hosting the tournament, said the sources who spoke on condition they were not identified.

CBFS put Sharjah firmly on the international cricket map by successfully organising the Rothmans' Asia Cup in 1984, four-nation and three-nation trophies in 1986, the Australasia Cup and Champions' Trophy in 1986 and the Sharjah Cup in 1987 and 1988.

The secretaries from the cricket boards of the four Asian nations, Ashraf-ul-Haq of Bangladesh, Nusrat Mohammed of Sri Lanka, Ranbir Singh of India and Arif Abbasi of Pakistan were present at Sharjah during the Sharjah Cup Tournament for 1988 which ended yesterday.

Scheduled All the Asian officials wanted the Cup to be held this year especially as India has a tight schedule after November.

However, Ranbir Singh, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said: "The decision as to when and where the Asia Cup should be held will be decided only in the Asian Cricket Conference at Pakistan on April 17."

Meanwhile, Arif Abbasi, the secretary of Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan said that "the most important matter on the agenda of the Asian Cricket Conference is the staging of the Third Asia Cup."

Before leaving for Karachi, Abbasi invited Dubai Cricket Association's Abdul-Rahman Falaknaz and Mohammed Redha Abbas as well as CBFS chief, Abdul Rahman Bukhari, to attend the Asia Cricket Conference.

Sharjah cricket stadium is hailed as one of the best in the world and is considered an ideal venue for one-day matches.

According to the Indian skipper Ravi Shastri, "the wicket in Sharjah is excellent for one-day matches and it is marvellous to play here."

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Fromageries Bel, which manufactures internationally the well known cheeses, LAVACHE QUI RIT and KIRI, are pleased to inform the Kuwaiti consumers that their special manufacturing process utilizes high temperatures and is fully mechanized, so all boxes are sealed tightly. As a result, Fromageries Bel products are absolutely safe.

LAVACHE QUI RIT and KIRI are the result of more than 60 years experience in cheese manufacturing.



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